## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

c events of last August. The unwarranted invasion

and to volupable INFORMATION DIVISION I DELLAS SOLITES STATES DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS There was general agreement that the new studion called for increased vigAQ and a qualitative improvement **AGARA**. AWATTO saible in currently countited forces The Czech crisis created a mood of caution and concern, and re-emphasized

in my statement to the Defence Planning Committees

No. 68/22 the founcil-level committee of the 14 member nations participating in the

## o beensioo visfflie GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF CANADA'S DEFENCE POLICY

Statement by the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Léo Cadieux, to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, December 3, 1968. Dou woo agida troggua lanoitatego

discussion about these visels and their relation to NATO I should like to explet to you out present plans for employing them after their construction is complete ... Before going into the defence aspects of the NATO ministerial meeting, you may find it helpful if I were to recall to your attention a little of the background and past history of Canada's defence involvement in NATO. In spite of our somewhat isolated geography, Canada has been involved during this century in two world wars and in several smaller ones. This experience has led to the acceptance by Canadians of two basic defence principles. First, that peace and prosperity for Canada depend on peace in the world and that Canadians have a responsibility to promote and preserve peace in the world; and second, that the only sensible approach for Canada in the pursuit of peace is to work collectively with like-minded nations. gide to reduce out at passroal yas gained

We applied these principles to Europe during the precarious decade following the Second World War. The prospects for continued peace were uncertain, and our European friends were in military and economic disarray. In the early years of NATO, Canada responded, on the military side, to the pressing needs of co-operative defence by providing, under Mutual Aid, matériel sufficient to equip two and a half army divisions; we trained over 5,000 pilots; we provided over 1,000 aircraft and 25 naval ships. Forces were assigned or earmarked in all three environments: naval forces for service in the North Atlantic, a Brigade Group in Germany backed up by the balance of division in Canada, and an Air Division in Central Europe.

As our allies grew in strength and self-assurance under the climate of confidence made possible by the alliance, we have been able, in consultation with them, to reduce our share of the European defence burden, both as a proportion of the total effort and in absolute terms. Although our force commitments are now less than they were initially, this has been compensated to a significant degree by extensive improvements in weapons and equipment. The Canadian forces now based in Europe constitute a relatively small but militarily significant and identifiably Canadian contribution to alliance defence.

Mobile Force (Land) in the northern regions of Norway, as we had done The stability engendered by the NATO alliance gave rise during the mid-60s to hopes for more normal relations with Eastern Europe, and even for some optimism regarding an eventual settlement in Europe. You will remember that the keynote of the NATO ministerial meeting a year ago in Brussels was the promotion of détente between East and West and, in Reykjavik in June, we began to think in terms of an