

For the purpose of this study, however, the most interesting conclusion is that as an attentive public group the CIIA seems to be predominately in favour of continuing Canada's role in NATO. It can be argued that the CIIA is more attractive to traditionalists than to revisionists; but despite this line of reasoning the support given to NATO at the 1966 Liberal National Convention and at the Conservative Leadership Convention would indicate that NATO has fairly wide support among other attentive public groups. Support for NATO also emerged from the Carleton University Conference on NATO in January, 1966. The majority of some sixty delegates drawn from the Government service, the universities, and from business favoured Canadian participation in NATO.⁴⁵

Summary:

Academics who have written about Canadian foreign policy can be classified as either revisionists or traditionalists. The revisionists reject the present policy of interdependence, and advocate a complete realignment of Canadian foreign policy. NATO and NORAD are no longer needed, and the emphasis of Canadian policy should shift to the UN, peacekeeping, and increased assistance to the developing areas. The traditionalists support regional military alliances, and believe a policy of interdependence is best suited to Canadian needs. The UN, peacekeeping and foreign aid are supported, but they cannot replace the need to rely on NATO and NORAD. Table No. 4 lists individual academics by category.

Revisionist arguments against NATO encompass three main themes. The first argues Europe has changed politically, economically and militarily to such an extent that NATO has outlived its usefulness since Europe can now defend itself and the Russian threat no longer exists. The second theme argues the Canadian military contribution to NATO serves no strategic purpose, and its main function is political. Since no real political benefits are forthcoming Canada should withdraw from NATO. The third theme argues for an independent foreign policy. Only by disassociation from U.S. dominated alliances is it possible to have an independent foreign policy which will enable Canada to assume a more important role in the world. The role which can be performed most usefully is to adopt a programme of massive assistance to the developing nations in order to close the increasing economic gap between the industrialized and the developing nations. The revisionists see this as the most pressing problem in the world. The majority of revisionists also see Canada continuing to perform a positive role in the area of peacekeeping.

The traditionalist arguments can be divided into those that counter-act the revisionist position, and those that stress functions for NATO which are unique to the alliance. Included among the first group are arguments which maintain that the threat to Europe is not extinct and that Canada's security remains closely linked to NATO. While the relative strength of the Canadian contribution has decreased over the years, Canada still performs a function deemed essential by other NATO members. In terms of political influence the contribution gives Canada some say in policy formation. In this respect interdependence enhances our ability to mediate in conflict situations, and gives Canada a voice in many centres of the world which would normally be closed to a middle power. Interdependence does not mean subservience, and as a firm ally of the United States influence in Washington