

#### IV. Canadian Interests and Objectives

Canada participates fully in all significant activities of the Alliance. Its most visible contribution is represented by the approximately 6 000 military personnel (land and air) stationed in Europe at CFB/Lahr and Baden-Solingen. It should be emphasized, however, that all of Canada's forces are maintained for the defence of the NATO area. While their primary responsibility is, of course, the defence of the North American region, significant forces are committed to the defence of the Atlantic Command region as well as for the reinforcement of forces stationed in Europe. Moreover, Canada contributes its proportionate share to common-funded NATO programmes, primarily the Infrastructure, Military and Civil Budgets as well as the AWACS program. Finally, Canada is a leading exponent of, and active participant in, the Alliance's non-military activities, most notably political and economic consultations.

Membership in NATO assists Canada in achieving several of its most important foreign policy objectives. It provides the essential collective security framework for enhancing the security of Canada. Through the Alliance's efforts to foster dialogue with the Warsaw Pact, most obviously via the MBFR and CSCE processes, Canada assists in advancing arms control and disarmament, reducing regional tensions, and thereby improving international peace and security. Canada's active pursuit of meaningful consultations within the Alliance, particularly on arms control and disarmament issues, serves not only the objective of enhancing national security and international peace, but also the objective of reinforcing sovereignty and Canadian identity, as such consultations give Canada an equal voice in discussions involving all but one of the major Western powers and also helps to provide balance in our bilateral relations with the United States. Participating in NATO defence planning, particularly the stationing of Canadian troops in Europe, heightens our Allies' perception of Canada and reinforces Canadian identity. Participating in the Alliance's common-funded programmes, especially the Infrastructure programme, and in the Alliance's efforts to foster armaments co-operation, improves the access of Canadian firms to Alliance defence and defence-related markets and enhances their opportunities for co-operation and contracts with other Alliance firms, particularly those involved in high technology areas.

The Canadian Delegation, assisted by the Canadian Military Representative, is the pre-eminent means whereby Canada's objectives are pursued in NATO. To fulfill its tasks, the Delegation employs nine officers from External Affairs, five from National Defence, and one from Emergency Planning Canada. While its officers represent Canada at the majority of NATO meetings, particularly those of the main committees, their