

peace. However, the need for Canadian forces in Western Europe of the present size (approximately 10,000 men) required reassessment in the light of the greatly-increased ability of Western European countries to provide conventional forces and armaments for their own defence. A related factor was that Canada was the only member of NATO, apart from the U.S., that had been carrying a significant defence burden for the alliance on two continents, i.e., in both North America and Europe, as well as in the area of the North Atlantic Ocean itself.

In addition to assisting in the application and development of the Government's new policy towards NATO, the Office of Politico-Military Affairs continued to furnish guidance to the Canadian Permanent Delegation to NATO in Brussels for the regular meetings of the North Atlantic Council and its committees, as well as for meetings at the ministerial level. The Office co-operated with the Department of National Defence in co-ordinating the extensive consultations held with the NATO authorities throughout the summer concerning the details of Canada's future military contribution to the alliance. The NATO ministers, meeting in Brussels at the end of the year, formally noted the "positive outcome" of these consultations, and the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe expressed the view that the 5,000-man Canadian force that would be remaining in Europe would be able to continue to fulfill a meaningful, though reduced, role in agreed alliance strategy.

During the year, the alliance continued to intensify its efforts to promote *détente* and progress towards a peaceful solution to outstanding problems in Europe. At the ministerial meeting in Washington in April, a program was begun to prepare a list of subjects on which productive East-West negotiations might take place. Detailed studies were conducted and the December ministerial meeting carried the process a stage further by publicly emphasizing the alliance's particular interest in active exploration at an early date of the subject of mutual and balanced force reductions with the Warsaw Pact; the importance of progress on the problem of Germany and Berlin and the potential usefulness of broader East-West co-operation on other topics such as pollution of the environment were also specifically indicated. A Canadian suggestion for the study of procedures for negotiation with the Warsaw Pact countries was taken up in December by the NATO ministers, who decided that a report on the subject should be prepared for the next ministerial meeting.

In the field of arms control, NATO not only intensified its consideration of the subject of balanced force reductions in preparation for possible negotiations but also engaged in detailed consultations on the subject of the limitation of strategic arms, to assist the United States in preparing the ground for the important negotiations on this question with the Soviet Union, which opened in Helsinki in November. Consultations were also held in NATO with a view to facilitating progress on other current arms-control issues such as the demilitarization of the seabed.

A new dimension was imparted to NATO activities as a result of a decision in November to set up a Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society to assist member states in exchanges of views and experience on the problems of the environment and stimulate co-operative actions in this increasingly important field. The Committee held its first meeting in December.