

reduce the size of our military contribution to NATO. I then told the Committee that this change was occasioned, in part, by a requirement for budgetary restraints on all Canadian Government activities.

I reminded the meeting that, after full consultation, we had reached agreement on the final extent and timings of our proposed adjustment in Europe, and said that, as a result of consultation, we had modified considerably our original plan. These modifications were embodied in the force structure I announced on September 19.

The communiqué refers to the meaningful negotiations we carried out in Paragraph 10, which reads in part:

Ministers took note of the positive outcome of consultations with the Canadian authorities concerning their forces for NATO, which were initiated following the Defence Planning meeting of May 28, 1969.

I am happy to report that the European nations have initiated steps to adjust their forces to maintain the NATO force levels in Europe and, while their plans have not been finally completed, it appears that they will be shortly.

During the ministerial meeting, the 12 ministers comprising the Nuclear Defence Affairs Committee reviewed the work of the smaller seven-member Nuclear Planning Group and considered two papers originated by the Planning Group and adopted by the Defence Planning Committee.

These papers dealt with procedures for political consultation on the possible use of nuclear weapons and guidance for commanders on drawing up their plans for the possible defensive tactical use of nuclear weapons in defence of the treaty area.

Speaking for Canada, I supported the adoption of these papers, which further define and restrict the circumstances under which nuclear weapons might be used, emphasizing the requirement for political consultation and control.

As Honorable Members may recall, the Nuclear Planning Group changes its membership on a rotation basis, so that the non-nuclear members have an opportunity, together with the nuclear powers, to participate in the planning for nuclear defence measures, including control and consultation procedures. Canada was a member from January 1967 to July 1968, and will become a member again starting January 1, 1970, for a period of 18 months.

In my further remarks, I felt it appropriate to deal with Canada's contribution, past and present, to the NATO alliance.

I reminded the Committee that 20 years ago Canada willingly helped to establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Like the other members, we pledged ourselves to consider an armed attack against one or more of us, in Europe or in North America, as an attack against us all. We still hold that pledge.

I said that the long period of the NATO alliance had enabled European members to complete their postwar recovery and embark on a period of economic growth with peace and stability. Behind the NATO shield, Western Europe