The direct relation between foreign and defence policies requires close liaison between the Department of External Affairs and other departments concerned, particularly the Department of National Defence. The Bureau of Defence and Arms Control Affairs, consisting of the Defence Relations Division and the Arms Control and Disarmament Division, is responsible for these aspects of the Department's work.

The co-ordination of Canadian foreign and defence policies in connection with Canada's participation in North American defence, Canadian membership in NATO and other military activities abroad is carried out through a variety of interdepartmental channels and groups in which the Department is represented. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is the Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on External Policy and Defence, the meetings of which are usually attended by the Under-Secretary as well. The Department is regularly represented at the meetings of the Defence Council in the Department of National Defence and on several senior interdepartmental bodies that advise on various aspects of defence policy. The Department provides a member and the Secretary of the Canadian section of the Canada-U.S. Permanent Joint Board on Defence, and a member of the Canadian section of the Canada-U.S. Civil Emergency Planning Committee. The Defence Relations Division has the task of co-ordinating departmental views and preparing guidance for the departmental representatives on such interdepartmental bodies, as well as providing advice on the defence aspects of Canada's bilateral relations with various countries. In particular, it is the responsibility of the officers of the North American and NATO Sections of this division to co-ordinate the preparation of instructions for the Canadian Permanent Delegation to the North Atlantic Council in Brussels, and briefs for periodic ministerial meetings concerned with defence questions, for the meetings of the Canada-U.S. Permanent Joint Board on Defence, held three times a year, and for the Canada-U.S. Committee on Civil Emergency Planning, held twice yearly.

The Military Assistance and Peacekeeping Section of the Defence Relations Division co-ordinates Canadian military training assistance to newly-independent countries (an activity that is financed through the Department's appropriations) and co-operates with the Department of National Defence in international peacekeeping matters, including the Canadian military contribution to United Nations operations such as the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East (UNTSO). This section also assists in making arrangements for naval visits, clearances for military aircraft and the employment of Canadian Forces personnel or equipment in international relief operations abroad.

The Arms Control and Disarmament Division is responsible for the development of advice and recommendations concerning governmental policies and positions related to Canadian contributions to negotiations to stop the arms race. In general terms, the division's work is guided by the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on October 24, 1969, that "no single international activity rates higher priority in the opinion of this Government than the pursuit of effective arms-control and arms-limitation agreements". The