

B. Particular Roles

138. The military activities in which Canada will remain involved, according to the Minister's testimony, are: "to continue Canada's long-established programs of military collaboration with Australia and New Zealand, possibly to have limited military contacts with other Pacific countries, notably Japan, and to provide some carefully evaluated training assistance to Malaysia and Singapore." In addition to these involvements, Canadian military personnel continue to represent Canada on the Military Armistice Commission in Korea (a two-man team) and on the International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC) to Indochina (22 all ranks: 20 in Vietnam and 2 in Laos). A final—and the major—element in Pacific activity involving Canadian security interests is in jurisdictional, coastal and territorial protection on Canada's West Coast.

Jurisdictional, Coastal and Territorial Protection

139. Canada's military activities in the West Coast region are, of course, related to Canadian security interests in the Pacific area, and in various ways involve Canadian relationships with other Pacific countries. The major functions of the Canadian forces components in the area are related to the integrated arrangements for North American defence under the North American Air Defence (NORAD) and Alaska, Canada and United States (ALCANUS) agreements. In addition to this, elements of the armed forces are increasingly being utilized in conducting surveillance, and maintaining a Canadian presence, in relation to various kinds of coastal jurisdiction claimed by Canada. The Department of National Defence, in addition to maintaining its purely military preparedness, is well-equipped to assist other departments in the protection of the Canadian territorial sea, fishing zones, and pollution control zones. These activities have been assigned a very high priority in the Government's new defence policy. The Committee considers this an important step in the effective utilization of the Federal Government's overall capabilities to promote important national interests in the Pacific coastal region.

Military Cooperation and Contacts

140. Australia and New Zealand are at present the only two Pacific countries with which Canada is prepared to undertake programmes of military cooperation on any scale. These programmes are well-established and mutually beneficial, and the decision to continue them is justified. The Committee understands that the plans for "limited military contacts" with other Pacific countries (notably Japan) are unlikely to involve standardization or technical cooperation agreements or large-scale training exchanges. More restricted contacts may, however, help to enhance mutual good-will and maintain an atmosphere conducive to collaboration on broad issues of security policy. There is some uncertainty about Japan's potential role in Pacific security affairs (particularly in the light of partial American disengagement). While its significance should not be exaggerated, there is an obvious rationale for a Japanese-Canadian dialogue on these matters.