

Force might have obtained less than the other branches of the Canadian Forces. However, Major-General Alan DeQuetteville, Chief of Forces Development with the Department, confirmed that, given capital spending projects under way and those planned for the next five years, the equipment purchase budget was allocated as follows: 28 per cent for the Navy, 27 per cent for the Land Force and 35 per cent for the Air Force.<sup>33</sup>

In discussing the budget, the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral John Anderson, said:

I have to be satisfied with what the government is prepared to allocate to defence, and then within that to find a balance between the demands from the naval, air, and land community, overlaid, of course, with our strategic communications requirements, our logistics and support requirements. Yes, I'm satisfied we have the best balance we can get within the circumstances of today.<sup>34</sup>

However, while recognizing the difficulties encountered in establishing a balanced capital budget allocation among the various branches of the Canadian Forces in light of cuts in planned expenditures and the constantly changing international situation, it appears that a revision of that allocation is necessary. The equipment weaknesses of the Land Force revealed in UN operations in Yugoslavia and elsewhere have demonstrated the necessity of reviewing an allocation of budgets which already dates from the first months of the post-Cold War period. They also suggest that some thought should perhaps be given to limiting the missions undertaken to those for which the Forces are properly equipped.

## AIR FORCE AND NAVY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONS

This does not necessarily mean that the Land Force must henceforth receive the lion's share of the equipment budget. The last three years have shown how fast the pendulum can swing from a situation, as in the Persian Gulf war, in which the Air Force and Navy were engaged to a high degree, to the present situation in which the Land Force plays the predominant role. Any new allocation of the capital budget will have to take into account the important role which the Air Force and Navy play, if only behind the scenes, in peacekeeping operations.

For example, Martin Shadwick eloquently praised the Hercules air transports for their contribution to peacekeeping operations:

With regard to transport, the Hercules fleet remains the backbone of our air transport capabilities. I think that fleet represents a unique national asset for peacekeeping and disaster relief and related roles, and it must be preserved. It's a very important area.<sup>35</sup>

The Hercules fleet is used to the maximum to transport troops and supplies necessary to ensure the success of Canadian contingents in all UN operations. Over the years, new aircraft have been added to the fleet, but most of the Hercules aircraft nevertheless have at least 20 years of service. It is therefore becoming increasingly necessary to modernize them, particularly their avionics, in order to ensure they remain effective, hence the following recommendation:

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<sup>33</sup> Proceedings, p. 32:26.

<sup>34</sup> Proceedings, p. 32:27.

<sup>35</sup> Proceedings, p. 38:10.