

North Atlantic Council Meets

Strengthening the integrity of the alliance, preparing for the NATO summit scheduled for January 10 to 11, and consulting with allies on the threats to peace and security in Europe were among Canada's objectives at the North Atlantic Council meeting held in Brussels on December 2. Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet represented Canada in the discussions, where allies considered NATO's ongoing support for UN peacekeeping and the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies in the former Yugoslavia. They also discussed NATO's role in implementing a potential peace plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the Brussels meeting, Canada continued to support NATO reform. The Soviet threat against which the alliance was constituted has been replaced by the risk of instability, unpredictability and uncertainty on NATO's periphery. NATO's Strategic Concept, adopted in November 1991, recognizes the changing security situation in Europe. The emphasis is now on the creation of a more flexible structure — relying on lighter, more mobile forces — and an increased capability to contribute to conflict prevention and management, including peacekeeping. A multinational Rapid Reaction Corps is being developed and is expected to be fully operational by 1995.

Canada is also encouraging further interaction and cooperation between NATO and other security structures in Europe. This includes refining the mechanisms necessary to provide support to organizations such as the UN and the CSCE in the areas of crisis management and peacekeeping. It also includes the further development of institutional relationships between NATO and the Western European Union (WEU). Canada is in favour of a strong European voice through the European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI). The security challenges in Europe can only be addressed through a framework of interlocking and complementary institutions tying together the countries of Europe and North America. NATO, NACC, the CSCE, the EC, the WEU, and the Council of Europe together form the beams of the evolving European security architecture.

In the emerging security environment, NATO's *political* vocation, as embodied in Article 2 (the "Canada" article) of the North Atlantic Treaty, is assuming greater importance. More emphasis is placed on dialogue and cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In particular, NATO is playing a major role in assisting those countries to complete their transition to democracy. Through the NACC, the NATO allies are seeking to contribute to an overall climate of security and thereby to enable Cooperation Partners to direct their material resources to economic and social development. Substantive programs of regular consultation and practical cooperation are being pursued.

Canada is now preparing for the January NATO summit. Canada's primary objectives are to support efforts to reinforce NATO solidarity and to increase NATO's capacity to contribute to stability in Europe. In Canada's view, the summit should:

- promote the projection of security by NATO across Europe through peacekeeping, a partnership with Russia and Ukraine, and arms control;
- confirm that NATO can incorporate a positive expression of the ESDI;
- articulate an updated view of NACC's role; and
- discuss the issue of NATO expansion.

NACC Adopts 1994 Workplan

North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) foreign ministers met in Brussels on December 3 to adopt a workplan for 1994 and to discuss ethnic conflicts, minority rights and disputes between NACC member states. Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet attended on behalf of Canada.

NACC was created in November 1991 to provide a forum for dialogue between NATO allies and the countries of the former Warsaw Pact. Cooperation focuses on political and security issues where NATO allies can offer their expertise: defence planning, civilian-military relations, the conversion of defence production to civilian purposes, and scientific and environmental programs (see *Bulletin* #21). In addition to NACC ministerial meetings, there are regular consultations at the level of ambassadors.

NATO Contributes to UN Peacekeeping

Common to the recent conflicts in Europe — from Nagorno-Karabakh to Bosnia-Herzegovina — is the danger posed to the security of members of NATO, as well as to broader European security. NATO foreign ministers therefore agreed in June 1992 to make NATO's resources and expertise available for CSCE peacekeeping and, in December 1992, for UN peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. Since then, NATO has taken a number of measures in support of UN peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia.

- In June 1993, NATO offered protective airpower for the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the performance of its duties.
- In November 1992, NATO provided a staff unit consisting of some 100 personnel, plus equipment, supplies and financial support, to UNPROFOR's Bosnia-Herzegovina command headquarters, located near Zagreb.
- A joint NATO/Western European Union naval force was deployed in the Adriatic Sea in July 1992, in support of UN trade sanctions against the former Yugoslavia. In the first four months of operation, the force monitored some 1,700 ships and boarded approximately 200. As part of a normal rotation of NATO resources, HMCS Gatineau was on patrol with the task force in the Adriatic in September 1992.
- NATO has deployed airborne early-warning aircraft (AWACS) to enforce the UN-mandated no-fly zone over Bosnian airspace, from flight paths over the Adriatic and in Hungary.
- NATO prepared contingency plans for the delivery of UN humanitarian aid and for the monitoring of heavy weapons.
- NATO has been developing plans to support a peace agreement among the parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, under the overall political direction of the UN.