



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 63/6

CANADA'S DEFENCE POLICY

Partial text of a statement by Prime Minister
John G. Diefenbaker to the House of Commons
on January 25, 1963.

...One thing which we agree in all parts of the House is that everything possible should be done to maintain the strength of each of the nations within the free world, economically and strategically. We are in agreement that everything possible should be done to maintain our defences, while, at the same time, we should endeavour to attain that objective which, elusive as it has been for a thousand years, has represented the hope of all mankind.

I regret that the Secretary of State for External Affairs yesterday afternoon was unable to complete his summary of the contribution which has been made by Canada towards achieving disarmament and peace. However, even without elucidation on his part, I think Canadians everywhere realize that he has raised the standard of Canada in the United Nations to an extent that has brought honour to this country....

In 1961 the amount spent by the Canadian Government in Canada was \$502.9 million and \$26.1 million outside Canada, or 95.1 per cent of the expenditures within Canada.

Lessening Influence of Communism

Internationally we live from time to time in the hope of bettering days. We also live between the hope of an assured peace and fear. We must maintain our defences. Of that there can be no question. But I think it is of interest that in the spiritual things the Western world is gaining strength among those countries which in the past have had a large or considerable Communist population. In Western Europe today the Communists are down to 60 per cent of the strength they had in the years immediately following the Second World War. One reason for that is the division which has taken place between Russia and some of her satellites and now between Russia and Communist China. Another reason is that conditions among the people economically are far better than they are behind the Iron Curtain. There were about 4 million card-carrying members of the Communist party in Western Europe after the war. That number is estimated today to be 2.4 million. Even people living in the Communist world, as they become prosperous, are losing their fanatical adherence to Communism.

Then there are the events which have taken place in the last few weeks. Mention was made of the meeting between President de Gaulle and Dr. Adenauer. The agreement signed represents a forward step that could never have been contemplated 10 years ago. It shows that, in the international field today, the word "never" should not be in our vocabulary. Indeed, I feel that more and more we should endeavour through trade and cultural exchanges to bring about an understanding of each other.