

During the year, the newly appointed Secretary General of NATO, Lord Carrington, visited Canada. In several public appearances, he emphasized the important role of NATO in building a more productive East-West relationship, and he welcomed the continuing Canadian political and military contribution to NATO and the government's stated intentions to strengthen its commitments to the common, collective defence.

NATO foreign ministers met in Washington in May 1984, and after completing a review of East-West relations initiated the year before, issued the Washington Statement on East-West Relations. This statement, to which Canada fully subscribed, re-emphasized the defensive nature of NATO and the essential connection between the security of North America and Europe. It also confirmed the continued validity of NATO's long-standing approach to international security: the maintenance of adequate military strength and political solidarity to deter aggression and, on that basis, the pursuit of a more stable relationship between the countries of East and West.

For their part, NATO defence ministers agreed that greater effort was required to strengthen NATO's conventional defence position in light of growing Warsaw Pact military capabilities. A special series of studies on Western conventional defence improvements was launched in December 1984, with the stated purpose of reaching concrete shorter- and longer-term recommendations to enhance NATO's deterrent capacity.

Canada continued to meet the NATO objective of a 3 per cent annual increase in defence spending, as part of a broader effort to strengthen Canada's conventional forces in Europe, the Atlantic and North America. As a significant indication of the government's intentions to ensure that Canada fully meet its NATO commitments, important decisions were taken in March 1985 to strengthen Canadian ground forces committed to NATO, including those dedicated to the defence of the Central Region in Germany and of the Northern Flank, particularly Norway. These steps were part of a broader plan to improve the effectiveness of the Canadian Forces over time.

Canada-US defence relations

The Quebec Summit of March 1985 led to important decisions on strengthening bilateral co-operation with the United States in joint defence of North America. An agreement was signed to modernize the North American air defence surveillance and warning system, providing for the establishment of a North Warning System. This was the culmination of several years of bilateral efforts to upgrade the early warning capabilities provided previously by the Distant Early Warning and the CADIN/Pinetree Lines. An important element of the new agreement was the provision that Canada would, for the first time, fully exercise its national defence

responsibilities on its own sovereign territory and within its own airspace.

At the Quebec Summit, an important declaration on international security was made by Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan. Among other things, that declaration committed both countries to revitalize the defence and security partnership, to consult fully and frankly on defence and arms control questions, to strengthen the defence trade relationship and, through partnership with other Western allies, to enhance deterrence of armed aggression by any means and bring about significant arms reductions between East and West.

In January and March 1985, three successful test flights of the unarmed air-launched Cruise missile took place, including tests of the Cruise missile in free flight. The tests over Canadian territory were a continuation of a program agreed on earlier by the two countries, based on the principle of joint contribution to, and sharing of, responsibilities for the defence of North America. Preliminary work also continued on a review of the North American Aerospace Defence Agreement, due for renewal in May 1986.

Peacekeeping

Canada continued to contribute to the maintenance of peace through the United Nations peacekeeping operations, contributing contingents to the UN Forces in Cyprus, the UN Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights and the UN Truce Supervisory Organization in the Middle East. Although there was no significant progress towards political solutions, the military situations in Cyprus and the Golan Heights remained stable.

In early 1985, Canada received requests from the governments of Egypt and Israel to contribute to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), which supervises the peace between the two countries in the Sinai Peninsula. The government decided in principle that Canada would participate in the MFO, through provision of a helicopter unit which would, later in 1986, replace that provided by Australia. The decision to participate in the Sinai Force was portrayed by the government as a tangible sign of Canada's commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East, and to the reinforcement of the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Military Training Assistance Program

During the 1984-85 fiscal year, 76 training courses were provided to officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers from 16 non-NATO countries, under the Military Training Assistance Program. The majority of those attending training in Canada were from Commonwealth Caribbean and African Commonwealth countries.