

our navy or give up even the pretence of being able to protect our waters. We have decided to introduce ship, submarine and helicopter replacement programs....<sup>8</sup>

In particular the new three-ocean navy strategy put new emphasis on the need to have an active presence in the Arctic. To this end, a fixed sonar system will be deployed in the Arctic and 10-12 nuclear powered submarines will be purchased.

Submarines are essential to meet current and evolving long-range ocean surveillance and control requirements in the Atlantic and Pacific as well as in the Arctic. Nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs) are uniquely capable anti-submarine platforms....The SSN can also shift more rapidly from one area to another to meet changing circumstances....Given the vast distances in the three-ocean areas in which Canada requires maritime forces and the SSN's unlimited endurance and flexibility, the Government has decided to acquire a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines to enhance the overall effectiveness of the Canadian navy.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, the White Paper promised significant increases in the Reserves. Reserve strength is projected to increase to 90,000 over the 15-year period and the Reserves will be given specific tasks such as minesweeping. New resources will be devoted to the Reserves and conditions of service will be altered to make it easier to coordinate reserve work with employment.<sup>10</sup>

### Parliamentary Comment

Prior to the publication of the White Paper, NDP member Derek Blackburn

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Challenge and Commitment, p. 52.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 66.