



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA ADOPTS A NEW DEFENCE POSTURE

Statement by the Honorable Léo Cadieux,
Minister of National Defence, September
19, 1969.

To set the scene for the statement I am about to make, I would refer you to two previous statements: the Prime Minister's on April 3 and my statement in the House of Commons on June 23. In these statements the rationale for changes in Canada's defence posture is set out with the roles for the forces stated as follows:

- (a) The surveillance of our territory and coastlines, i.e., the protection of our sovereignty;
- (b) the defence of North America in co-operation with United States forces;
- (c) the fulfilment of such NATO commitments as may be agreed upon; and
- (d) the performance of such international peacekeeping roles as we may from time to time assume.

The Government, as you will recall, has undertaken to re-structure our forces over a period of time so that the equipment and training for the above roles at home and abroad will be compatible. As I informed the House at the beginning of June, we believe, barring unexpected international developments, that we can achieve the transition within a defence budget which will be maintained for the next three years at its current dollar level of \$1.815 billion per annum.

It is against this background that I shall now enlarge on the outline force structure contained in my June 23 statement, which forecast the changes necessary to give substance to the Government policy on defence. There are still some consequential decisions to be made but, by and large, the forthcoming shape of the Canadian Armed Forces can now be enunciated.

The force I am about to describe is considered by my military advisers to be a viable force capable of meeting the tasks set by the Government.