

Table No. 2 - Political Parties and Support for NATO: 1958-63:  
A Period of Conflict.

<u>Issue</u>	Acquisition of nuclear weapons			would support a Canadian nuclear role	support for NATO, general
	1958-59	1960-62	1963		
<u>Party</u>					
Liberal	Yes	No	Yes qualified	Yes qualified	Yes
Progressive	Yes	Yes qualified	undecided	undecided	Yes
New Democrats (CCF)	?	No	No	No	No qualified

Note: A 'Yes, qualified' means support with reservations, and a 'No, qualified' means rejection in part.

When compared to Table No. 1 the lack of party agreement between periods is only too apparent. At no time, or on any question, were all parties in agreement. Furthermore, only the NDP showed any signs of internal consistency. While neither of the old line parties advocated withdrawal from NATO it was not until early 1963 that one of them (the Liberals) came out with a clear statement on Canada's NATO role. Even this was put in terms of unfilled commitments, and not in terms of a strong endorsement of NATO strategy. The NDP went much further than the other major parties as they became increasingly disenchanted with the alliance, and as a result advocated withdrawal if Canada adopted the nuclear strategy of the alliance. In terms of party consensus the outlook was indeed bleak when the Liberals formed the government in 1963.

Toward a New Consensus: 1964-67

With the settlement of the nuclear issue the Liberal Government indicated its desire to establish a more stable pattern of defence policy. Such a desire was indicated in Mr. Pearson's Scarborough speech when he suggested it was time to examine "the whole basis of Canadian foreign policy." The need for a more realistic and effective role than the existing one, in both NATO and NORAD, was necessary; and while Mr. Pearson ensured continued support for both alliances it was clear that some changes could be expected.

The first step in the search for greater stability was the formation of a Special Committee on National Defence, which submitted