

## DEFENCE AFFAIRS

The year 1969 witnessed important developments in Canadian defence affairs, centering upon the Prime Minister's statement of April 3 concerning Canada's future defence policy and the role of the Canadian armed forces. The decisions announced in this statement, which were reached after extensive public discussion and debate, represented an important stage in the Government's continuing review of Canada's foreign and defence policies.

Within the Department of External Affairs, responsibility for the defence implications of foreign policy, and thus for the close liaison which is required at all times with the Department of National Defence and other departments active in the defence field, rests with the Office of Politico-Military Affairs, which is divided into the North American Defence and NATO Division and the Peacekeeping and Military Assistance Division. This Office was established in 1968 as a result of a reorganization of the former Defence Liaison (1) Division. As in 1968, the Office continued to be closely involved in the Government's review of foreign and defence policies and was represented on various working groups concerned with this review.

In the area of continental defence, the statement of April 3 indicated Canada's intention to continue to co-operate closely and effectively with the United States in the defence of North America and to endeavor, to the extent feasible, to have those activities within Canada essential to North American defence performed by Canadian forces. The implementation and further definition of this policy, as it would apply to specific issues in the area of Canadian-United States defence relations, was a topic to which close attention was devoted by the Office. An important development within the framework of co-operative North American defence arrangements was the announcement on November 14 of an extensive realignment of the command and control system of the North American Air Defence, decided upon after consultations between the Canadian and U.S. Governments. One result of the realignment was an assumption of increased command responsibilities within the NORAD system by officers of the Canadian Forces.

The Office continued to provide the External Affairs member and the Secretary of the Canadian section of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, which held two week-long meetings during the year. The Office also represented the Department at meetings of the Canada-U.S.A. Civil Emergency Planning Committee and maintained liaison with the various Canadian Government departments involved in emergency planning activities.

In the field of NATO affairs, the main development during the year was the Government's decision, announced in its April 3 statement, to reconfirm Canada's adherence to the North Atlantic Treaty but to bring about, in consultation with Canada's allies, a planned and phased reduction of the size of the Canadian forces in Europe. This decision was based on the view that both NATO and Canada within NATO continued to have a significant role to play in the preservation and promotion of