

In 1967, faced with a new strategic situation, NATO issued another report entitled "Report on the Future Tasks of the Alliance" (the Harmel Report). This report outlined two objectives for the Alliance: continued maintenance of adequate military strength and political cohesion, and new efforts to achieve a more stable and durable relationship with the East. To ensure these goals, the report argued, the consultative process must be enhanced and continued. This commitment to close consultation and co-operation was renewed in the Ottawa Declaration in 1974.

The North Atlantic Council (NAC) is the central consultative body of NATO and was established by the Treaty in 1949. The Council is composed of permanent representatives who meet on a weekly basis. Ministerial consultation occurs in three forums: NATO Foreign ministers meet twice each year at the Council level; NATO Defence ministers meet twice each year in the Defence Planning Committee, and twice in the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG). Special Council meetings involving heads of government and ministers are sometimes convened, as was the case when President Reagan met with NATO ministers after the US-Soviet Summit in November 1985.

Canada's force commitments to NATO at present consist of:

- a Mechanized Brigade Group of about 6,000 men based in Lahr, West Germany;
- 3 squadrons of the Canadian Air Group, based in Baden-Soellingen, West Germany;
- the Canadian Air/Sea Transportable (CAST) Brigade Group based in Canada and committed to reinforcing Northern Norway when required, consisting of a Brigade Group and 2 squadrons of fighters;
- a destroyer in the Standing Naval Force Atlantic.

The primary objective of operations and training for 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and 1 Canadian Air Group is to maintain their formations and their