

In the course of its study the Committee was drawn to the conclusion that equipment designed for maritime surveillance and control is most effectively operated under the command of the Department of National Defence. This department is able to use equipment resources in the widest variety of situations to provide overall protection against threats to the security of Canada and Canadians. As we become more aware of the diversity and scope of threats to our national security, the concept that military aggression is the only danger to our country's survival against which the Armed Forces provide protection must give way to a broader view -- the view that Canada's military has a crucial role to play in non-military activities which protect our laws, our social fabric and our human and natural resources.

In making choices for the future, we also need to remember that defence policy equals equipment plus organization. Strategic military and policy declarations will only be as good as the various platforms, weapons, equipment, etc. that are available, trained and in working order. Because of the time lag in new equipment purchases, operational defence policy can change only over a considerable period of time, making it imperative that we get the logic right before rushing into hardware decisions.

(1) Proceedings, 1974.

(2) Ibid.