

*Statements by Ministers*

Although I will deal with them separately later, it is important to recognize the role that a revitalized reserve force will be called upon to play in the sustainment of consolidated forces in Central Europe. Our maritime forces will also continue to play a critical role in contributing to the security of sea lines of communication between North America and Europe and both the support and the sustainment of land and air forces in the European theatre.

Let me offer a few comments now about the reserves. The sustainability in support of our stationed and expeditionary forces in Europe would in hostilities be critically dependent on the size and capability of the reserve forces. There are also national roles such as mine countermeasures, the naval control shipping, the protection of vital points and home defence which are well suited to the reserve forces. We intend to introduce a total force concept which will reduce the distinction between the regular and the reserve forces. The quality and quantity of training and equipment will be improved and the strength of the primary reserves will be increased to about 65,000 from the current level of 25,000.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Beatty:** This will achieve an over-all reserve level of 90,000 in the 15-year planning period.

Other initiatives will be launched to pursue effective university officer training programs and to improve the pay and the benefits of reserve personnel. The reserve forces can play a vital and cost-effective role in the defence of Canada but they have been gravely neglected in recent years. We intend to see that these citizens, soldiers, sailors and aviators, receive the recognition which they deserve and we will give them a priority that they have not had for several decades.

I would also like to inform the House of a number of other elements of our new policy. First, the Government intends to continue to support our NORAD commitment of three squadrons of tactical fighters. This commitment will be reinforced through our participation in components of the North American Aerospace Defence Modernization Project such as the North Warning System through continued co-manning of the United States airborne warning and control aircraft flying in support of NORAD commitments and co-manning of operational support centres for the over-the-horizon backscatter radar stations.

We will pursue new initiatives which might lead to an enhanced capability to conduct surveillance of our northern areas from space over the next 15 years. During this period, we will also closely monitor the United States initiatives in space and other programs aimed at improving the aerospace defence of North America. I would stress that our policy will continue to be that all activities in space must respect international treaty obligations and must contribute to the pursuit of peace.

In addition to these initiatives in support of military commitments, the Government intends to pursue measures aimed at broadening and strengthening the base on which

future defence policy is to be built. These measures include an increased emphasis on the provision of equal opportunities in the Canadian forces for members of both official language groups, expanding the role of women in the Canadian forces, ensuring that Canada's regular and reserve forces fully reflect the ethnic diversity of Canadian society, the strengthening of defence industrial preparedness and, perhaps one of the most important initiatives, the scrapping of the Emergency Planning Order and the replacing of the War Measures Act with the new emergencies legislation.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, this has been a commitment of the federal Government since 1970 and we will act on that commitment. We will replace the War Measures Act with new emergencies legislation which will both better protect civil liberties and provide greater flexibility in dealing with emergencies.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Beatty:** The Government will also introduce legislation to establish Emergency Preparedness Canada, the agency responsible for co-ordinating the civil aspects of mobilization planning.

This White Paper is the blueprint which will guide the rebuilding of the Canadian Forces. As Hon. Members know, major Crown projects such as the Canadian Patrol Frigate Program or the Low Level Air Defence Program take many years to complete and must be planned many years before production starts. For this reason, defence planning is long term and the horizon of the White Paper is the next 15 years.

To provide a fair balance between the need for certainty that resources for defence will be available in the long term and the degree of fiscal flexibility that is prudent for the Government to retain, a new planning and funding process has been developed for programs which will flow from the policies laid out in the White Paper. During the 15-year planning framework of the White Paper, the Government is committed to annual real growth in defence spending which, except in fiscal emergencies, will not fall below 2 per cent. Increased resources over those generated by this planned funding floor will be provided as major projects forecast in the White Paper are introduced and implemented.

In order to assess the level of incremental resources required in any given year, Cabinet will conduct an annual review of proposed defence spending for the following five-year period. A rolling five-year funding plan has been adopted and will form part of the defence estimates process. The first annual review will be held in September of this year. At that time, the second phase of the Ship Replacement Program will be examined to determine the annual level of incremental funding required over the 2 per cent base line for the next five years.

Since he was first elected to Parliament, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has made clear his commitment to a strong