

aggression". A special effort would be made to ensure that the U.N.'s specialized agencies operated effectively.

Regrettably, the promise was not fully kept and the U.N.'s collective security capabilities were never allowed to develop fully. Competition between East and West grew into open opposition and hostility, while in the Third World there have been 150 armed conflicts with the loss of 16-20 million persons.

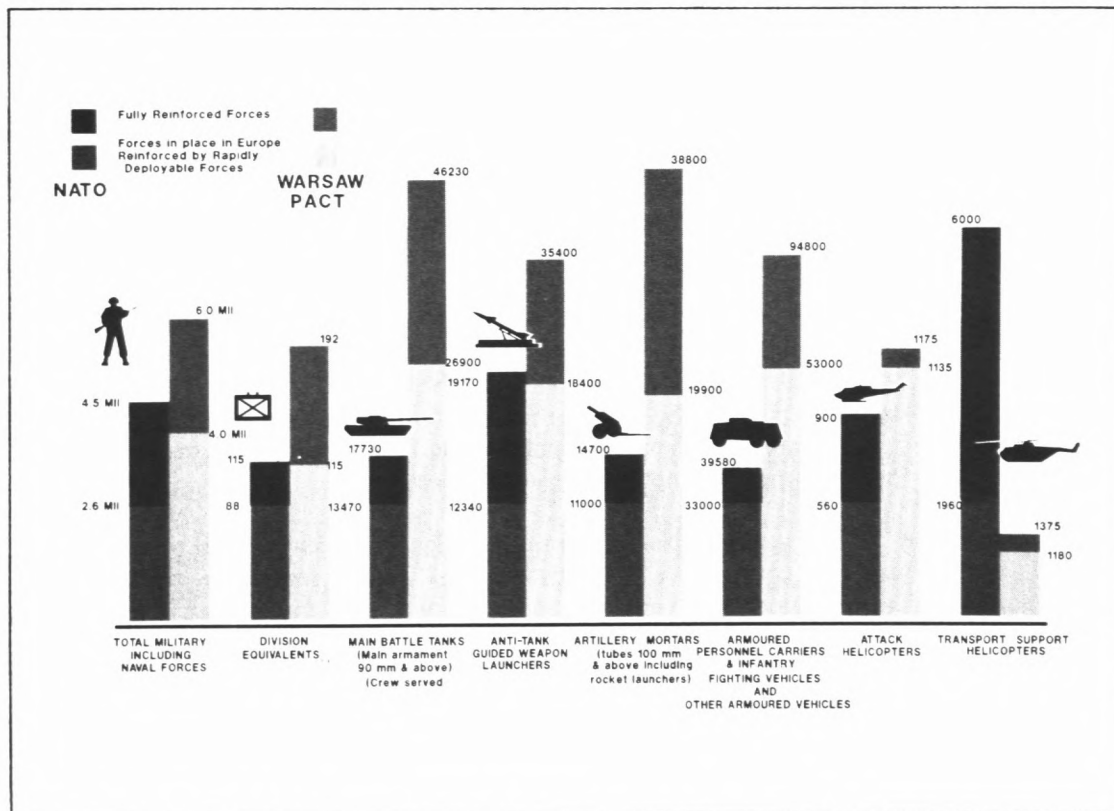
### Collective Security through NATO

As it became clear that the U.N. could not be relied upon to guarantee a state's security, and in response to Soviet territorial ambitions in Europe, Western states entered into a regional collective defence arrangement — the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO's basic purpose was, and still is, to *deter* aggression against any of its members by presenting a common front — in the belief that it is better to prevent a war than to fight one. And infinitely less costly.

*An alliance designed to deter war, not to fight one.*

In the thirty five years since it was founded, the NATO Alliance has successfully deterred aggression against its members and has consistently endeavoured to improve relations between East and West. As the NATO Harmel Report of 1967 observed: "The Alliance has two main functions ... to maintain adequate military strength and political solidarity to deter aggression

Figure 3: NATO—WARSAW PACT FORCE COMPARISON



Source: NATO and the Warsaw Pact: Force Comparisons, NATO Information Service, Brussels, 1984.