

commitments and consequently resources to allow the Canadian Forces to become capable of meeting their commitments; reduce commitments to the point where they could be met by existing forces; or a combination of the first two alternatives. The Department of National Defence chose to mix the alternatives.⁵

Canada's contribution to NORAD and the defence of North America will continue without significant change, but Canada's commitment to Europe will be altered by eliminating its commitment to send the CAST brigade to northern Norway in a time of crisis. Instead, the CAST brigade will be assigned to the central front in Germany. In this way the logistical difficulties that plagued the Norway commitment will be lessened and Canada will be able to contribute a "division-sized" force in Germany in a time of crisis.⁶ (For more details on this issue see NATO entry).

Speaking before the House of Commons, the Minister of National Defence, Perrin Beatty said:

Consolidation into land and air divisions and the addition of divisional elements will provide larger, more effective and more visible Canadian contributions to the conventional deterrent and defence needs of the Alliance in Europe.⁷

The most significant change announced in the White Paper is the development of a three-ocean navy. In his speech before the House, Mr. Beatty stated:

The first key element in our new defence strategy is the creation of a three-ocean navy to protect our three-ocean country. The deplorable state of the navy is well known....The problem is so serious that we must either engage in a major rebuilding of

⁵ Ibid., p. 47.

⁶ Ibid., pp. 61-62.

⁷ Commons Debates, 5 June 1987, p. 6777.