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THE USES OF NATO

In a statement to the NATO Council on October 28, Mr. Howard Green, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, spoke, in part, as follows:

"...At the outset of my remarks I wish to state once more that the Canadian Government is devoted to the purposes of the North Atlantic Treaty and that we continue to give it high priority among Canada's international obligations. The most recent example of our continuing support for NATO is the recent decision of the Canadian Government to re-equip the Canadian Air Division in Europe with the most modern aircraft -- a decision which we took at a time of budgetary deficits when we were unable to increase total defence expenditures.

"The North Atlantic Treaty binds us together for the defence of North America and Europe. Unlike most members of the Alliance, the Canadian defence effort cannot be concentrated only in Europe. We must provide, in co-operation with the United States, for the defence of the long frontier bordering the Soviet empire in the north. In the age of missiles and long-range bombers, the defence of North America is as important to NATO as a whole as is the defence of Western Europe. The requirements of the defence of North America are expanding and costly. The maintenance of Canadian forces in Europe is a contribution to NATO over and above heavy commitments now being undertaken by the Cana-

dian Government in the defence of the Canada-United States region.

INTERDEPENDENCE

"One of the principles underlying the North Atlantic Alliance is that no state, however powerful, can guarantee its security and welfare in the nuclear age by national action alone. To all its members - large, medium and small - NATO brought, in the face of a serious Soviet military challenge, a measure of security and purpose, and today endows us with a sense of mutual confidence and responsibility for the negotiations that lie ahead which no member, by itself, could have attained.

"By the same token, the very interdependence of a grouping of states of varying sizes and responsibilities means that the action of one can affect, and often vitally, the security and welfare of all. Interdependence requires above all mutual confidence. It must exist to a very high degree, and it is of the utmost importance that it be maintained. In the Canadian view the most effective way of preserving our faith and trust in each other is through frequent and frank consultations.

POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

"The Canadian Government has consistently emphasized the great significance of political consultation within the Alliance and we are encouraged by the considerable progress which has been achieved. It is now accepted practice

(Over)