

that "Canada is at the bottom of the heap in terms of manpower," he noted that the size of the Canadian Forces had actually increased from 75,000 in 1975 to a current total of 87,000.¹⁹

On 4 April 1989, Joe Clark, Perrin Beatty and Associate Minister of Defence Mary Collins marked NATO's fortieth anniversary by praising the Alliance's contribution to world peace and the importance of Canada's role within it.²⁰ Later that month, however, the Government's new budget called for the postponement, rescheduling, or outright cancellation of a number of programmes to improve the Canadian Forces in Europe. Plans to purchase 13-28 CF-18 jet fighters were cancelled. The planned purchase of 250 main battle tanks was reduced in scope, and the project was put on hold. The acquisition of some 199 wheeled light armoured vehicles was put on hold until at least 1990-1991, while the planned purchase of 820 Northern terrain vehicles was cut by over fifty percent (to 400) and is expected to be delayed until at least 1995-1996.

The full impact of the budget on Canada's NATO commitments is still somewhat unclear. In the budget's aftermath, there was speculation that the Government would cancel plans for a "division-sized force" in Central Europe during a crisis.²¹ In May 1989, however, both Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Defence Minister Bill McKnight were reported to have insisted that the commitment to field a 10,000-strong division in West Germany remained steadfast.²² Nevertheless, on 24 May 1989 the then Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Lieutenant General John de Chastelain, noted that while such plans were "still in place, the previous plan to equip the division and indeed reinforce it over the years, was not."²³ General de Chastelain's remarks echoed more detailed testimony he gave eight days earlier to the Special Senate Committee on National Defence. At that time, he observed:

It had been planned that these forces, as presently equipped (i. e., 4 CMBG, 5eGBC and divisional headquarters), would be jointly tasked for operations in southern Germany with effect 1 December, that their re-equipment would take place over a period of years. That plan has had to be modified. Because of budget cuts, the acquisition of much new equipment for the division is no longer possible. But the intention to change 5eGBC's fly-over role from Norway to Germany... will nonetheless proceed. There, it, along with the resources of

19 Paul Koring, "Very Few Standing on Guard For Thee, NATO Figures Show." *Globe and Mail*, 1 December 1988, p. A14.

20 Department of National Defence, *News Release* (4 April 1989), and Department of External Affairs, *Statements and Speeches* (4 April 1989).

21 See, for instance, "1st Division Commitment to NATO Cancelled." *Canadian Defence Update*, vol.3 no.4 (May 1989), pp. 1 and 8.

22 James Bagnall "Cuts Cloud Canadian Role in NATO." *Financial Post*, 29 May 1989, p. 5.

23 "1st Canadian Division Back On." *The Wednesday Report*, vol. 3 no. 21 (24 May 1989), pp. 2-3.