

Chapter 5

DEFENCE AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY

Defence and NATO

During 1985-86, the government, in pursuit of its objective of enhancing Canada's contribution to NATO, began implementing its decisions of March 1985 to strengthen the Canadian ground forces commitment, most notably by increasing force levels in Germany by 1 200 troops. In support of the same objective, it also continued to meet the NATO goal of three per cent real growth in defence spending. In late 1985, the government began an intensive review of Canadian defence policy.

The NATO foreign ministers met in Lisbon in May 1985. After reviewing East-West relations, in particular the state of negotiations in Vienna (Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions), Stockholm (Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe), and Geneva, where US-USSR negotiations on strategic nuclear weapons had recently opened, they called on the new Soviet leadership to join Western nations in seeking tangible improvements in East-West relations.

After the US-USSR Summit and the subsequent November meeting of NATO Heads of Government and State at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the foreign ministers, at their December meeting, noted the encouraging developments that had taken place since Lisbon. They also expressed the hope that the recent high-level East-West contacts would lead to improved relations, more extensive contacts including regular high-level meetings, and broad co-operation on the full range of East-West relations.

During this period, foreign and defence ministers also devoted considerable attention to the questions of enhancing co-operation among NATO allies in developing and procuring military equipment. At their spring meetings, they authorized an intensive study by senior officials of possible areas of co-operation. As a result of that study they approved, at their autumn meetings, an Armaments Co-operation Improvement Strategy. Among other things, the Strategy is intended to enhance collaboration, harmonize requirements, and increase co-operation in research and technology.

Canada-US relations

The principal milestone in the Canada-US bilateral relationship was the renewal, without modification, of the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) Agreement for an additional five-year period. The renewed Agreement was signed at the Washington leaders' summit on March 19, 1986. It confirmed to NATO allies and to the world community that NORAD continues to meet the continental defence requirements of both countries and remains, along with NATO, a cornerstone of Canada's collective defence policy.

The year also witnessed steady progress in defence trade co-operation resulting in a steady increase in the export of defence-related products and services to the United States. This success resulted from concerted efforts on both sides

of the border to carry out the commitment made at the 1985 Quebec Summit to increase defence trade between our countries.

Peacekeeping

Canada's contribution to the maintenance of international security through peacekeeping increased when a Canadian helicopter unit assumed its duties with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai Peninsula on March 31, 1986. The MFO monitors security provisions of the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.

In addition, Canadian troops continued to participate in the UN Force on Cyprus, the UN Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights and the UN Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East.

Military Training Assistance Program

During the 1985-86 fiscal year, 56 training courses were provided under the Military Training Assistance Program to military personnel from 13 non-NATO countries, primarily from the Commonwealth Caribbean and Africa.

Arms control and disarmament

The period under review was an especially productive one for Canadian government endeavours in the field of arms control and disarmament. In a speech before a meeting of the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs held in October 1985, the Prime Minister outlined the six priority objectives of Canadian arms control and disarmament policy. These objectives are:

- negotiated radical reductions in nuclear forces and the enhancement of strategic stability;
- maintenance and strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime;
- negotiation of a global chemical weapons ban;
- support for a comprehensive test ban treaty;
- prevention of an arms race in outer space; and
- the building of confidence sufficient to facilitate the reduction of military forces in Europe and elsewhere.

In a subsequent statement in the House of Commons in January 1986, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, set out steps the government intended to take to implement these goals. Foremost among these was the intention to take full advantage of the multilateral and bilateral channels open to us to promote serious and constructive negotiations and to encourage compliance with existing arms control agreements. The government also believes that Canada can make a significant practical contribution to arms control and disarmament by developing verification mechanisms and by contributing to the building of confidence between East and West.

A key event in restoring the superpower dialogue on international security was the November 1985 Summit meeting