

All who did participate had immensely rich and varied careers, including periods of NATO or NATO-related work where they played key roles in consultations on such issues as the modernization of intermediate-range nuclear weapons, the control of conventional armed forces in Europe, events in Poland, or defence spending in Canada.

The interviews were all conducted in the summer of 1987. They were done as a set of biographies, following each person's career from one location and issue to another, and focussing most heavily on the periods of NATO or NATO-related activity. The questions were carefully prepared in advance so that the discussions focussed on critical issues as much as possible. However, the approach was not a rigid or dry one; the aim was to encourage spontaneous comment as well as careful reflection, and to bring out a true sense of affairs rather than a point-by-point debate over this or that particular document.

The transcripts are contained in the main body of this study, entitled: "The Record". They are divided into three parts, according to the main focus of each person's career in NATO and NATO-related affairs. Thus John Holmes, George Ignatieff, Geoffrey Pearson, Robert Cameron and George Grande are grouped in Part I, because their main involvement in NATO and NATO-related affairs was with the establishment of the Treaty, the years in Paris, East-West relations, or arms control negotiations. Group II were all involved directly in Canada's defence effort; and Group III were all Canadian ambassadors to the North Atlantic Council (NATO) in Brussels.

However, this division into groups should not be taken too literally. People's careers overlapped from one phase of NATO activity to another, as they advanced through various stages and changed functions from one area of activity to another. For example, James Taylor saw NATO from a range of perspectives - as a delegation member in Paris in the early-1960s, as a diplomat in Moscow, as Ambassador to the North Atlantic Council (NATO) in Brussels, and as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in Ottawa. The other participants all had similar, broad-ranging careers.

On a personal note, the interviews were at all times a great pleasure to conduct. The participants were invariably outward-looking and forthcoming, as devoted to a truthful recounting of the record as they had been earlier to the effective performance of their duties. They represent Canadian public policy at its best - committed, skillful and imaginative, and without stridency or an absorption with panaceas. These practitioners were never simplistic or hawkish - they were, instead, dedicated and thoughtful.

Two participants who stood out among their generation have passed away since the interviews took place. All who knew them regret profoundly the loss of John Holmes and George Ignatieff, two great Canadians who contributed so much to the reputation of this country and to the pursuit of stability, harmony and peace in the world. This study is one further way of remembering them.