

We advocated universal membership in the international community — when it was not always popular to do so. As Prime Minister Diefenbaker demonstrated with respect to Cuba. As Prime Ministers St. Laurent and Pearson demonstrated in helping many independent states gain admission to the UN. And as my government demonstrated in recognizing the People's Republic of China and its right to a seat on the UN Security Council.

Canada emerged from the Second World War as one of the very few nations with both technology and resources to build nuclear weapons. But we had seen the terrible nature of these weapons and their work. Successive governments, therefore, renounced this nuclear option, and applied Canadian skills to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In place of a national nuclear force, we joined with others in systems of collective security — in the UN, in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and in North American Aerospace Defence (NORAD).

Canada is a steadfast member of each of these three organizations. In the UN, we took the lead in peacemaking and peacekeeping in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. In NATO, Canada is one of the few countries to maintain alliance forces permanently outside its borders. In NORAD, we contribute an element of priceless value: the air space above our vast land. The United States can design its own defences knowing that for 4 000 kilometres north of them, the land is occupied by a stable ally.

We take our commitments seriously. We have replaced our maritime patrol planes with the most advanced aircraft of their kind in the world. We have equipped our armoured units with the high-performance *Leopard* tank. We are phasing in sophisticated tactical and interceptor aircraft. We have launched a program to acquire new frigates. All of this is the most modern equipment available — all of it tasked to defensive purposes.

We decided in 1969 that it was no longer appropriate for the Canadian Armed Forces to be equipped with nuclear weapons. We announced our intention to phase these systems out in a manner fully consistent with our commitments to our allies and as quickly as equipment replacement permitted. By 1970, we had divested ourselves of the surface-to-surface *Honest John* rockets in Europe. By 1972, we had completed the conversion of Canadian aircraft in Europe from a nuclear strike to a conventional attack role.

Also, by 1972, the *Bomarc* ground-to-air missiles based in Canada had been returned to the USA. We subsequently decided to replace the nuclear-equipped Canada-based *CF-101s*, by state-of-the-art *CF-18* interceptors. Those *CF-18s* will carry out our air defence role more effectively with conventional armaments than the *CF-101* could do with nuclear weaponry. This means that later this year we shall have rid ourselves of the last vestiges of nuclear weapons.

We have done more than look to our defences. We have addressed the causes of insecurity and instability, particularly in the Third World. East-West and North-South are the four points of the political compass of our modern age. The problems of the South cannot be solved in the absence of progress on global security. Massive military expenditures are distorting economic policies and diverting resources away from global economic development. This, in turn, is worsening Third World instabilities that ensnare East and West and add to the insecurity of us all.