

policy before despatching them to our delegation. The foreign policies of the member states are, of course, harmonized to the greatest possible extent through continuous consultation in the Permanent Council.

Another important aspect of Canada's NATO programme is mutual aid. Since 1950 Canada has provided over \$1.75 billion to member nations of NATO in the form of transfers of equipment from production or service stocks, aircrew training in Canada, and financial contributions to NATO common infrastructure and military budgets. The responsibility for providing the aid rests with the Department of National Defence and the policy questions relating to who should get what aid and the negotiation of the arrangements under which the aid is to be provided are matters on which the Department of External Affairs advises.

Canadian co-operation with the United States in the defence of North America has acquired added significance because of our unique geographic position, placing on Canada a responsibility to help to protect the U.S. nuclear-deterrent forces which are the final guarantor of the security of the Western alliance. As the House has been informed, we are now negotiating an agreement with the United States to make available nuclear warheads to make effective the weapons systems already acquired by the Canadian armed forces. The Department of External Affairs has primary responsibility for negotiating such an agreement, although naturally we rely for expert advice on the Department of National Defence. In the negotiation of defence agreements and where consultation on the implementation of agreements on policy questions arise, the normal diplomatic channels between the Department of External Affairs and the Embassy in Washington or between the Department and the U.S. Embassy here are available and are often heavily engaged in such matters.

In addition, the Department of External Affairs is represented on those inter-governmental bodies on defence which deal with more than the purely military aspects of defence questions. One such body is the Ministerial Committee on Joint Defence. In 1958, the United States and Canada agreed that the importance and complexity of interdependent defence relations made it essential to supplement existing channels for consultation and to provide for a periodic review at the ministerial level. It was envisaged that this review would include not only military questions but also the political and economic aspects of joint defence problems. The Committee consists on the U.S. side of the Secretaries of State, Defence and Treasury and, on the Canadian side, of the Ministers of External Affairs, National Defence and Finance. The last meeting of this Committee was held in 1960, but, as the Prime Minister and President Kennedy announced at Hyannis Port, a meeting will be held in the latter part of this year probably, but the date has not been fixed.

I do hope -- if I may say by way of parenthesis -- that this Committee of ministers from both countries in this particular field would be able to meet sometime around the early part of