

therefore, natural that we should find ourselves facing problems today that did not exist in 1949.

Canada's goal is to ensure that the Alliance faces these problems frankly and treats them in such a way that a crisis does not occur. We believe that this double objective can be reached, because we have no doubts that the fundamental goals uniting the various members of the Alliance are the same today as yesterday. It is for that reason that we have recommended that the NATO Council take up the nuclear problems of the Alliance. This study has already begun and must continue.

I was asked recently if we would accept the idea that the Alliance should rest on two pillars - one American, the other European. Historically, continental powers have always had the tendency to look on the sea as a dividing element, and maritime powers as a unifying one. Canada, properly speaking, is neither a maritime power nor a continental one; however, we are linked by Franco-British history and this factor places Canada's emphasis on transatlantic relations. If this were not so, Canada would be merely an appendage of the United States.

Apart from the purely Canadian point of view, however, I believe that the idea of two pillars could lead us into trouble. It is very possible that, in the field of economic policy, Europe and North America can, up to a certain point, profitably negotiate certain tariff questions, as is the case in the "Kennedy round". On the other hand, I have often asked myself if this idea of two pillars can be applied to the field of Western defence, and if the idea corresponds to present military realities, even as applied to Europe.

QUESTION (5):

Is the MLF a solution to the defensive problems of NATO? What is Canada's position regarding the handling of nuclear arms within NATO?

ANSWER:

Canada has not yet participated in the preliminary technical discussions on the MLF. However, we see no objection to other members of the Alliance having discussions among themselves. As I have previously pointed out, we do not believe that the proposals concerning the creation of a multilateral nuclear force, taken by themselves, are capable of solving the whole of this problem. We consider that the arrangements that may eventually be adopted should be discussed among the members of NATO, at the right moment, and that these arrangements should correspond as much as possible to the interests of all the members of the Alliance and take account of the probable repercussions they could call forth in Europe and the world. We should obviously not approve of any broadening of the right of decision regarding the use of these weapons. Fortunately, there has been no question of that. These considerations are included among those that will guide the Canadian Government in its present study of the suggestions put forward by Britain. The problem of handling nuclear arms within the Alliance is, as you know, complex and very important. Because of this, it must be approached with caution.