

You will also realize how much NATO has been woven into the fabric of Canadian foreign policy.

In the military field, for instance, almost everything Canada is doing relates to our participation in NATO, and therefore is designed to bolster the military strength of the Alliance. In fact, we can probably say that little in Canadian military planning can be considered today as exclusively Canadian in character. When our defence efforts are not related to the maintenance of an effective Canadian contribution in Europe to the NATO shield, they are then designed to assist in the defence of North America, a region which, we must always remember, is an integral part of the NATO area, and within which everything being done has a direct bearing on the defensive strength of the Alliance as a whole.

We are very glad of course to have Canadian soldiers and airmen serving in Europe alongside some of your compatriots, engaged in the vital watch for any move which might constitute a threat to the security of our community. As Mr. Pearson said in his message last week on the occasion of the 8th Anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, it is they, our Canadian troops in Europe, under NATO command along with their fellow NATO allies, who bear the immediate burden of holding back the spread of Soviet oppression and preserving world peace. Canadians are proud of the loyalty and devotion of their Service personnel in Europe, and the Canadian Government is prepared to maintain that contribution in Europe as long as it is considered necessary for the protection of the Atlantic community, and as long as the other members of the Organization, who have as much at stake in the security of Western Europe, are prepared and willing to carry their equitable share of the sacrifices it calls for.

It is our policy to ensure that our troops in Europe be equipped with the most modern weapons available, and that they be trained at all times in the latest techniques of warfare, so that they may contribute their fair share to the effectiveness of the Alliance. In line with this policy, the Canadian Government began last year the replacement of some of the F-86 aircraft at the Canadian bases in France and Germany by the valuable all-weather jet interceptor CF-100. By the end of this year, four of the twelve Canadian squadrons in Europe will have been fully equipped with this latest type of aircraft.

It is only natural that the Canadian Government takes a great interest in the North American side of NATO's military organization. As General Norstad explained recently in an address before the American Council on NATO in New York, we must remember that the hard core of the West's military strength is its retaliatory forces, and that their most powerful single element.