

negotiations on new ground-based systems, and so focussed its own inquiry on one specific question: what policy should Canada pursue towards current proposals to modernize North American air defences? The results of this inquiry are contained in the present report.

The committee believes very strongly that Canada should support the upgrading of North American air defences because this is likely to enhance the survivability of the U.S. land-based deterrent and improve the protection of Canada's territory and population. National sovereignty protection in peacetime will be maintained if proper arrangements are made. Consequently, Canada should vigorously pursue the present negotiations with the United States in order to bring them to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. The Canadian negotiators should seek an equitable deal on costs that satisfies both this country and the United States, recognizing that these are not likely to be "staggering" or "astronomical" for either party. They should be well within this country's capabilities — probably under 5 percent of the annual defence budget.

The need for a new white paper became apparent during the committee's first enquiry when, from 1980 to 1982, it conducted a study of our armed forces' manpower requirements. Because there had been no general, official study of Canada's military establishments or defence effort for over a decade, the committee had to begin by surveying the whole of the defence field and by examining the linkages among the commands. The committee's study on maritime defence also came to the conclusion that a white paper was needed without delay. The present report is different from the other two, as it deals with one specific question rather than a whole aspect of defence activity or an entire command; it nonetheless concludes that additional defence expenditures and a new defence white paper are both essential. The committee is pleased to note the announced intention of the government to proceed promptly with the production of such a paper.

The committee itself intends to examine other defence activities and military commands in the future. It hopes to go on to study other aspects of Air Command's work, beginning with transport functions in support of our land forces and, following that, Canada's air defence contribution to NATO abroad.

Concerning the present inquiry, the committee wishes to express its gratitude to the many senior officers of the armed forces and senior officials of the Department of National Defence for their valuable assistance, as well as to witnesses from outside government, many of them former members of the armed forces, who readily responded to the invitation to share their views. A list of witnesses is appended.

A special note of appreciation is expressed to the Clerk of the committee, Mr. Patrick Savoie. The committee is also indebted to its technical advisor, Brigadier General (retired) Ronald Button, and to Mr. Roger Hill and Mr. Daniel Bon, of