

The cost of maintaining the correct balance must be shared equitably amongst the members of the Alliance and must be geared to the capabilities of each, having regard to its resources and its other military obligations. For example, Canada has heavy responsibilities in North American defence, in NATO and in the United Nations and in other peace-keeping activities. Our contribution too must take into account these responsibilities and the resources we have to meet them, and our planning must be projected as far as possible into the future if we are to make the most useful contribution to world peace in all these fields.

... The Prime Minister has announced in the House, as the Minister of National Defence did in the Council, the Government's intention to conduct a national review of defence policy and to set up without delay a Parliamentary Committee as part of that process, and a motion to that end will shortly be introduced. Our national review will thus go forward in parallel with the NATO review, a fact which will be helpful in considering the full range of our defence obligations. The outcome of these two reviews should enable the Government to form considered judgments on the extent to which the present allocation of the Canadian defence effort should be continued or adjusted.

There has been a good deal of public speculation ... as to why there was no mention in the communiqué of another project in the nuclear field which is known to have been under active consideration in the Alliance. I refer to the so-called multilateral force and, in particular, that aspect of it which would consist of a mixed-manned fleet of "Polaris"-carrying vessels. This question was not on the agenda because the special mission headed by United States Ambassador Livingston Merchant has not yet completed its visits to all the capitals of the Alliance. I wish to say no more at this stage than that the Canadian Government hopes to receive Ambassador Merchant's group and himself in Ottawa some time during the first week in June in order to inform itself better of all the ramifications of this proposal.

By any reasonable test ... the Ottawa meeting was one of the most successful the Alliance has had....

It is easy, and, I regret to say, fashionable to emphasize the centrifugal tendencies in NATO, tendencies which are bound to manifest themselves in any organization of free and sovereign states whose co-operation has so succeeded as to bring a measure of relief from external pressures. It is precisely because NATO has succeeded in deterring aggression and promoting the security of its members that they can afford to indulge in the luxury of some dissent, precisely inherent in the fact that NATO is made up of freedom-loving states.

This meeting of the Council had before it certain matters for decision designed to reinforce the enduring character of the partnership between Western Europe and North America. It took