

NATO

The common membership of Canada and the United States in NATO reflects the basic recognition that North American security ultimately depends on the security of Western Europe and vice versa. Militarily, Canada has maintained troops and aircraft in Europe since 1951 and our principal NATO allies have long availed themselves of Canadian training facilities.

In the past two years Canada has increased its forces in Europe by 15 per cent and has begun to install the infrastructure necessary to upgrade, in a time of crisis, the current forces stationed in Southern Germany to a land and air division. Combat and support facilities to ensure the survivability and sustainability of these in-theatre forces are also being upgraded. Canada will maintain its commitment to provide a battalion group to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Land Force for deployment to NATO's Northern Region.

NATO councils, which provide a vital consultative mechanism for developing alliance policy, enable Canada to propose and advocate particular points of view on security and arms control policies.

Canada-USA Defence Economic Cooperation

The full integration of defence production is a logical result of the long and close cooperation between the Canadian and American armed forces. It has strengthened military security and provided economic benefits to both countries.

Canada-USA defence cooperation is reinforced by frequent high-level consultations. In March 1985, the special defence production relationship was reaffirmed by President Reagan and Prime Minister Mulroney at the Quebec Summit. In their joint declaration on security, the two leaders made the following commitment:

To provide for an effective use of resources and to aid both our countries on bearing our share of the Allied defence burden, we reaffirm the Canada/United States Defence Development and Production Sharing Arrangements and agree to strengthen our North American defence industrial base. Recognizing the importance of access to, and participation of Canadian firms in the U.S. defence market, we will work to reduce barriers, and to stimulate the flow in defence goods.