

The Press: Mr. Sharp, I was wondering if you could tell us why this document was issued at this particular time? I assume I may take it that it has nothing to do with the election campaign.

Mr. Sharp: Oh it is. It was issued at this time as amplification of the Prime Minister's statement that we were undertaking a review of foreign policy. We look upon this as one of the parts of our policy and our programme--it is deliberately put out for that purpose and it will be summarized and form part of the information being provided to candidates throughout the country.

The Press: I may have misunderstood, but I was under the impression the Prime Minister said that he did not propose to make commitments until you had had a mandate from the people.

Mr. Sharp: No, what this says here in the end on the particular things that we are going to do, it is quite specific on the parts of our programme that we will put into effect, if we are re-elected. And I do not think any of them represent any large expenditures that are not already forecast. There are no new expenditures of significance in this programme.

The Press: Can we expect in this regard any specific figures from how much we are going to reduce our military budget, how many people we are going to withdraw from Europe? You spoke of people involvement and discussion in this, and I would assume that you are ready to give some figures so that people would be able to judge the merits of your policies.