

Canada is a member of the NATO alliance, a defensive alliance of like-minded nations sharing common values and aspirations. We are members out of choice, not circumstances, and have sought to strengthen our commitment to NATO through the enhancement of our military presence in Europe. NATO, above all, is a defensive alliance. As the NATO Foreign Ministers said in Portugal last year:

"We do not seek military superiority for ourselves. None of our weapons will ever be used except in response to attack."

Canada and all nations have an interest in ensuring that small regional conflicts be stopped before they flame into dangerous confrontations involving the major powers.

Canadian participation in peacekeeping operations has sought to help to prevent the outbreak or spread of hostilities, so that underlying political problems can be settled through negotiation. In fact, Canada stresses the important link between peacekeeping and peacemaking efforts, in the difficult process of international conflict resolution. After all, peacekeeping is not an end in itself. Overall, between 1947 and 1985, some 77,000 Canadian Forces personnel have taken part in 15 United Nations peacekeeping operations and three truce supervisory missions. At present, Canada is involved in five UN-sponsored activities -- in Korea, India, Pakistan, Cyprus and the Middle East. Last year, we also agreed to join the