

become a purely military alliance, Canada should immediately withdraw from NATO in favour of promoting peaceful economic and cultural activities through the agencies of the UN." It should be noted that Mr. Douglas and other leading members of the party opposed the resolution and it only passed by a vote of 85-72 after many delegates had left the meeting.²⁰ The resolution, however, was an indication of the feelings of a large segment of the party.

During 1960 the Government shifted from its fairly forthright position on the nuclear question to an increasingly evasive position which was followed until after the 1963 election. On January 18, 1960 the Prime Minister announced that "eventually Canadian forces may acquire nuclear weapons if Canadian forces are to be kept effective."²¹ While being evasive on the nuclear issue the Government made it very clear NATO was still an essential aspect of Canadian defence policy. In a speech to the Ottawa Canadian Club in November, 1960 the Prime Minister noted that while some people were advocating withdrawal from NATO "we must not and dare not discard it."²² Nevertheless the evasiveness continued throughout the following year, and there were signs of a party split on the horizon since the government appeared determined to proceed with the acquisition of nuclear bearing weapons without warheads and to continue nuclear training. Mr. Green resolutely continued to pursue the limitation of nuclear weapons at the United Nations²³ and Mr. Harkness continued to stress their importance. While the Conservatives were avoiding a decision, the Liberals at their 1961 National Convention ratified the non-nuclear views of the parliamentary party and according to Prof. Soward, gave "somewhat grudging" adherence to NATO.²⁴

Some of the most interesting developments during 1961 resulted from the merger of the CCF and the Canadian Labour movement into the New Democratic Party. Up to the formation of the new party, the CCF had advocated withdrawal from NATO with party leader Hazen Argue stating that "in this day and age and at this time Canada would be better advised to disassociate herself from regional military alliances."²⁵ This statement was contrary to that taken in the brief submitted by the Canadian Labour Congress to the Prime Minister on February 2, 1961, which noted that "Canada must work in concert with those nations which share her outlook and interests."²⁶ Needless to say, these opposing positions presented a conflict at the founding convention of the new party later in the year; but a compromise was reached which supported NATO as long as it did not involve nuclear expansion. The NDP position on nuclear weapons remained one of consistent opposition, and the party defence spokesman, Mr. Brewin, felt the acquisition of such weapons "would be military useless, politically disastrous and morally unjustifiable."²⁷

Unfortunately the election of 1962 did little to clarify the Conservative stand on nuclear weapons, and during the campaign it never became an important issue. Undoubtedly this was largely due to the confusion which existed within the Liberal party. After what had been a fairly clear position in 1961 the Liberal election platform seemed to indicate that the party would accept nuclear warheads if they were