



Bulletin

Vol. 26, No. 36

September 8, 1971

DEFENCE IN THE 70s

The Canadian Government began its major defence review in 1968 and indicated the broad lines of its thinking in a policy statement made by the Prime Minister on April 3, 1969. This statement presented a new orientation in defence policy, and in particular in priorities, to accord with changes on the international and national scenes.

The *White Paper on Defence* recently issued is intended to explain in greater depth decisions outlined in the 1969 statement, to provide a policy framework for further decisions by the Government on questions of current force posture and strategy, and to indicate the future direction of policy.

Internationally, significant changes have occurred in the nature of the strategic nuclear balance between the United States and the Soviet Union and in the state of East-West political relations, both in Europe and directly between the two super-powers. These changes, together with the emergence of China as a nuclear power and the growing economic strength of Europe and Japan, have resulted in a loosening of the bipolar international system. This trend is emphasized by the announcement that President Nixon

will shortly be visiting China, indicative of a major change in policy for both countries. Prospects for effective international peace-keeping, which were viewed with some optimism in 1964, have not developed as had been hoped.

Nationally, defence responsibilities required re-examination as a result of Government decisions to regulate development of the North in a manner compatible with environmental preservation, and with legislation enacted to prevent pollution in the Arctic and northern inland waters. Other relevant developments included extension of Canada's territorial sea, establishment of fisheries-protection and pollution-control zones on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and the heightened pace of exploration for offshore mineral resources. Finally, the threat to society posed by violent revolutionaries and the implications of the recent crisis merited close consideration in projecting Canadian defence activities.

The *White Paper* reviews defence policy and the role of the armed forces in relation to the national aims and general policy themes set out in last year's *Foreign Policy for Canadians*. Primary emphasis is placed on the aim of maintaining Canada as an independent entity; the contribution of the Department of National Defence to safeguarding sovereignty and independence and the attainment of peace and security are the main policy themes flowing from this aim.

Four main areas of activity for Canadian forces are identified: (a) surveillance of Canada's own territory and coastlines, i.e. protection of its sovereignty; (b) defence of North America in co-operation with United States forces; (c) fulfilment of such commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as may be agreed upon; and (d) performance of such international peacekeeping roles as Canada may from time to time assume.

The paper examines these four areas of defence policy in detail. Activity in each is assessed in

CONTENTS

Defence in the 70s	1
Newfoundland Constabulary One Hundred Years Old	3
Maple-in-Autumn Stamp	4
Young Ontario Sailors	4
Grants to Hockey Hopefuls	4
Japan-Canada Meeting	5
Pacific Marine Studies	5
President Nixon to Visit	5
Ottawa-Beirut Air Pact	5