

desire to have forces available for peacekeeping roles as well as for participation in defensive alliances.

NATO AND NORAD

Canada is a partner in two collective defence arrangements which, though distinct, are complementary. These are the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the North American Air Defence Command. For 20 years, NATO has contributed to the maintenance of world peace through its stabilizing influence in Europe. NATO continues to contribute to peace by reducing the likelihood of a major conflict breaking out in Europe where, because the vital interests of the two major powers are involved, any outbreak of hostilities could easily escalate into a war of world proportions. At the same time it is the declared aim of NATO to foster improvements in East-West relations.

NATO itself is continuously reassessing the role it plays in the light of changing world conditions. Perhaps the major development affecting NATO in Europe since the organization was founded is the magnificent recovery of the economic strength of Western Europe. There has been a very great change in the ability of European countries themselves to provide necessary conventional defence forces and armaments to be deployed by the alliance in Europe.

It was, therefore, in our view, entirely appropriate for Canada to review and re-examine the necessity in present circumstances for maintaining Canadian forces in Western Europe. Canadian forces are now committed to NATO until the end of the present year. The Canadian force commitment for deployment with NATO in Europe beyond this period will be discussed with our allies at the meeting of the Defence Planning Committee of NATO in May. The Canadian Government intends, in consultation with Canada's allies, to take early steps to bring about a planned and phased reduction of the size of the Canadian forces in Europe.

We intend as well to continue to co-operate effectively with the United States in the defence of North America. We shall, accordingly, seek early occasions for detailed discussions with the United States Government of the whole range of problems involved in our mutual co-operation in defence matters in this continent. To the extent that it is feasible we shall endeavour to have those activities within Canada which are essential to North American defence performed by Canadian forces.

DEFENCE PRIORITIES

In summary, Canada will continue to be a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to co-operate closely with the United States within NORAD and in other ways in defensive arrangements. We shall maintain appropriate defence forces which will be designed to undertake the following roles:

(a) the surveillance of our own territory and coastlines, i.e., the protection of our sovereignty;

- (b) the defence of North America in co-operation with United States forces;
- (c) the fulfilment of such NATO commitments as may be agreed upon; and
- (d) the performance of such international peacekeeping roles as we may, from time to time, assume.

The kind of forces and armaments most suitable for these roles is now being assessed in greater detail in preparation for discussion with our allies.

AID TO NIGERIA AND S. VIETNAM

The Canadian Government is providing a cash grant of \$61,841, through the Canadian Red Cross Society for Red Cross work in Nigeria and south Vietnam.

A contribution of \$40,000 is being made to help the International Committee of the Red Cross teams that are providing assistance to Nigeria. The ICRC needs the funds to carry on its relief work at its present level. This account brings to \$100,000 the cash contributions provided by the Canadian Government to the ICRC for its work in Nigeria on both sides of the fighting line, and is in addition to almost \$3 million the Canadian Government has already sent in other forms of relief assistance to that area.

The remaining \$21,841 is being provided to the League of Red Cross Societies for its medical and feeding programmes for refugees in South Vietnam. These programmes are aimed at the rural areas of the country. Although millions of civilians have fled to the major cities, there are still many in isolated pockets in rural areas who need temporary food relief, medical attention and clothing.

The present allocations are part of the Government's International Emergency Fund and are in addition to the regular programmes of assistance for Nigeria and Vietnam.

QUEBEC'S POPULATION IN 2001

A study on demographic prospects carried out by the Quebec Bureau of Statistics estimates that the province's population will be about 10,300,000 in the year 2001. Projected figures are 6,400,000 residents in 1971, 7,600,000 in 1981, 8,900,000 in 1991 and 10,300,000 in 2001. The predictions of actual figures in recent years, have been quite accurate - for example, for the period from 1961 to 1966, the margin of error between the predictions and the official figures of the 1966 census was no more than 0.5 to 1 per cent.

The production of red meat in 1968 amounted to 2.6 billion pounds, enough for 130 pounds for each Canadian.