

United States and the Soviet Union, including those on the limitation of strategic arms, were in large measure responsible for the success of initiatives toward political *détente* in 1973 and set the stage for participation by the NATO allies in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and talks on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR). Although these East-West talks are viewed as separate steps, both are closely related since it is hoped that the parallel negotiations involved will lead to further progress in *détente* and to a reduction of the military confrontation in Europe. Canada was a full participant in the conferences on these subjects convened in 1973. Throughout the talks, the North Atlantic Council and its committees have played a key role in developing and co-ordinating the views of individual NATO countries with respect to the principal problems under negotiation.

Throughout the year, Canada played a prominent role in the Alliance's continuing efforts to attain military stability and political *détente*, and to promote co-operation in many other fields among the NATO allies. The Secretary of State for External Affairs had earlier extended an invitation to the NATO Council to hold the plenary meeting of the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society in Canada. The plenary, held in Ottawa in April 1973, was the first to take place outside NATO headquarters in Brussels.

The "Year-of-Europe" initiative of the U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, keyed by the suggestion of an Atlantic

Declaration, led to a lengthy debate among the NATO partners in 1973 in the pursuit of a redefinition of the principles and a further enunciation of the consultative mechanisms embodied in the spirit of the 1949 North Atlantic Treaty.

During the year, the NATO allies addressed themselves to the matter of "burden-sharing" and the possibility of joint programs to relieve the United States, particularly, of certain of the costs involved in stationing military forces in Europe. The collateral aspect of this subject, also addressed, was the general matter of equitable cost-sharing in NATO-related defence expenditures among the allies.

The Canadian Government considers that NATO continues to be a most useful international forum for exchanging and discussing the views of its various members through its structured organs, as well as in such adjunct bodies as the North Atlantic Assembly and the Atlantic Council of Canada. The Alliance allows, and obliges, Canada and the United States to take an active role in European affairs, and exemplifies the interdependency of Europe and the North American continent.

North American defence co-operation

The Government's 1971 White Paper on defence stated that Canada's objective in North American defence co-operation was: "... to make, within the limits of our resources, an effective contribution to continued stability by assisting in the surveillance and warning systems and in the protection of the U.S. retaliatory capacity as necessary. Co-operation between Canada and the U.S. in the joint defence of North America is vital for sovereignty and security".

The primary emphasis in this co-operation lies in North American air defence and anti-submarine defence. Canada is a partner with the United States in the North American Air Defence System (NORAD). The Permanent Joint Board on Defence (PJBD), on which Canada and the United States are represented, is the principal consultative mechanism for Canada-U.S. defence co-operation. The Board's consultations should assist the Government in reaching a decision in 1975 on the renegotiation of the NORAD agreement, which will be examined at that time.

The Department co-ordinated the Canadian Government's examination of the future of the areas leased by the United States at Goose Bay, Labrador. The lease, originally scheduled to expire on December 5, 1972, was extended to June 30, 1973. Subsequently, a new agreement was concluded with the United States whereby Canada acquired operational control over the facilities at the airport. Current discussions are being held with the United States