

while deaths and estimated emigration increased slightly.

PROVINCIAL COUNT

During 1968, Ontario gained in population by 140,000 (1.9 per cent), the largest increase of all the provinces. British Columbia gained 55,000; this, however, was the greatest percentage increase at 2.8. Quebec gained 52,000 (0.9 per cent) and Alberta's gain was 36,000, or 2.4 per cent. Newfoundland gained 10,000; Manitoba, 8,000 and Saskatchewan, 2,000; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick both gained 3,000, while Prince Edward Island remained at 110,000.

The final census count of June 1, 1966, was the starting point of these estimates. To these provincial counts were added births and immigration by quarterly period, while deaths and emigration were subtracted and the interprovincial movement of population was calculated from data on movements of families in receipt for family allowances.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT SALES IN U.S.

For the second time in three months, Canadian manufacturers of educational equipment have made significant inroads into the \$50-billion United States education market.

In December, 13 Canadian companies made a first entry into this market during the American Vocational Association Convention in Dallas, Texas, from which sales of more than \$1.7 million have been predicted during the next 12 months. Last month, 19 Canadian school-equipment manufacturers made up the largest exhibit at the American Association of School Administrators Convention in Atlantic City from February 15 to 19. At the fair site \$266,600-worth of Canadian equipment was sold and further sales of more than \$5.1 million have been forecast over the next 12 months as a result of this exposure to the market.

Convention delegates arrived in Atlantic City well aware of Canada's presence. A special 24-page supplement, highlighting Canadian innovations in modern education, was inserted in a leading U.S. education magazine, with a circulation of 42,000, prior to the convention. Five thousand supplements were distributed to convention delegates and an additional 7,000 have been mailed to a select list of U.S. educators.

NATO IN CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE

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should occur, NATO must have the ability to respond effectively and prevent escalation to all-out nuclear war.

NATO A PEACEKEEPING FORCE

To achieve these objectives, NATO has developed the capacity for "flexible response". This requires

NATO to have available enough military forces, both conventional and nuclear, to convince the Soviet Union that any type of armed attack on its part would be unprofitable. Above all, the strategy of flexible response attempts to avoid a situation in which NATO would be faced with the stark choice of yielding to a conventional attack or resorting to nuclear war. It is also designed to contain an incident started by accident or miscalculation long enough to make a political solution possible without resort to tactical or strategic nuclear weapons. In such a situation, days or even hours could be crucial. This is why NATO is correctly described as a peacekeeping force....

Whatever Canada may decide, the alliance will continue to be the mechanism through which peace in Europe is maintained and decisions are taken on the issues affecting the evolution of East-West relations and the solution of European political problems. We must decide if these matters are of real concern to us and, if so, whether we have a better chance of influencing them in a favourable direction through continued membership in the alliance or by withdrawing.

I appreciate that there are differing points of view as to the importance of developments in Europe for Canada and our ability to influence them. Because of this, I think the open debate we are having is highly desirable. For my part, I cannot escape the conclusion that what happens in Europe matters very much to Canada. Our interests there cover many areas - history, culture, trade and finance, to mention only a few. Perhaps the most fundamental of all, however, relates to the fact that it is in Europe that the vital interests of the super-powers are in starkest confrontation, so that there is the greatest chance of a conflict escalating into a nuclear war. Because of Canada's geographic position between the two super-powers, this war would be fought out above our very heads. This is why Canada has a direct, selfish interest in the prevention of war.

I am not suggesting here that we ignore our interests in other parts of the world, but simply that, in terms of priority, Europe and developments there must continue to have a major claim on our energy and attention for some time to come.

Last summer's events in Czechoslovakia illustrated dramatically the determination of the Soviet Union to maintain its grip on Eastern Europe. It is difficult to accept, however, that the urge for greater freedom and a better way of life now manifesting itself on the other side of the Iron Curtain can be indefinitely suppressed, even through the brutal use of force. With all the uncertainties inherent in this situation, the period ahead seems to call for a combination of vigilance and perception. Vigilance is needed to cope with the consequences for the West of further difficulties such as Czechoslovakia; perception, to discern opportunities that the inevitable process of change in Eastern Europe might provide to make progress on Europe's political problems.