

need for assistance to Denmark or Norway, and also undertook to send a Canadian Air-Sea Transportable (CAST) brigade group to support northern Norway in emergencies.

A critical issue for Canadian Forces Europe during the 1970s was that of replacing the *Centurion* main battle tank, the brigade's principal item of equipment. The 1971 Defence White Paper envisaged the possible acquisition of light, tracked, direct-fire-support vehicles that would allow the brigade group to carry out a range of possible duties in Europe or elsewhere, but after extensive review and consultations with the NATO allies various difficulties with this option were encountered. The allies argued forcefully that main battle tanks were essential to making an effective contribution on the modern battlefield in Europe, and there were doubts about the need for Canadian mechanized land forces elsewhere in the world. The chosen light vehicle, moreover, the British *Scorpion*, seemed likely on close examination to prove as costly as a new main battle tank. By the mid-1970s, Canada had decided to acquire the standard German main battle tank, the *Leopard I*: 128 were purchased in 1976, and eighty-five of them were put into service with Four Mechanized Brigade Group (4 CMBG) that year.

As a report of the Senate Sub-committee (later Special Committee) on National Defence -- entitled *Manpower in Canada's Armed Forces* -- pointed out in 1982, the commitment to NATO in Europe was the focus at that time for most of Canada's land force operations. The brigade group at Lahr itself accounted for 3,200 personnel, and a major part of the other land force units and personnel in Canada were also dedicated to augment or reinforce Canadian Forces Europe in crises or wartime. These Canada-based units and personnel also provided rotation possibilities for the forces stationed in Germany. The Sub-committee report recommended building up 4 CMBG and Canadian Forces Europe, so that the latter would increase from 5,400 in 1982 to 7,800 in 1985, and then to about 10,000 in 1987.

The Progressive Conservative government elected in 1984 showed inclinations to proceed along lines very similar to those recommended by the Senate Committee. An additional 1,500 troops were sent to join Canadian Forces Europe in Germany after 1985,