

PRESS RELEASE



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Sixteen years ago on April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington. Canada played an important role in working out the concept of an Atlantic Alliance and full participation in this association of free nations has been a major element in Canadian foreign and defence policies.

Canada's attitude to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has been based on the fundamental belief that only through a broadly based western community that can ensure national as well as collective security and which promises to retain our historic ties with Europe and our friendly relations with the United States can Canada play a responsible independent role as a middle power in the Western Alliance.

Canada has always believed and still believes that the Atlantic Alliance must be more than a military alliance for the defence of Europe. We have therefore been amongst those who have urged over the years a much greater degree of economic and political cooperation within the Alliance. The Canadian Government is convinced that through a dynamic and forward-looking

NATO we can work towards our main goal, an Atlantic Community based on a permanent association of peoples with common

...2