

any desire to make use of the weapons available. The fact remains that military power is, nonetheless, used to perpetuate hegemonies that have no real place in our conception of true liberty.

Material prosperity has never been so great in all history; nevertheless, it must be noted that the gap between the poor nations and the rich has never been so wide. Technology brings great benefits, but it also forces us to make a reappraisal of the very foundations of our society. Today's world is different from that of the fifties: the present intercourse between peoples is making our world smaller and bringing countries on all continents to a state of solidarity and interdependence. Now that television permits us to admire a view of the earth as seen from the moon, we can contemplate the pettiness of our concerns, the futility of our quarrels.

Europe, too, has changed. Today most of its countries enjoy economic prosperity and are investing more and more in scientific research and adapting their production methods to meet the requirements of modern technology. Europe has also set its eyes on the goal of unity, as simple self-interest dictates. Its tremendous potential will be realized as and when this unity becomes fact. Canada, for its part, has been influenced by the ebb and flow of events in the world around it.

Until recent years, Canada has concentrated on furthering its own development and fostering national unity and creating a national identity. From now on, Canada intends to regard its own development, taking account of all relevant factors, including its pluralism and its linguistic duality - essential elements of the Canadian identity - as one of the foundations of its foreign policy. Canada wants to build a just society characterized by better distribution of the country's wealth and to contribute to a pursuit of the same objective on an international scale. It wants to continue to play an active role in the world, but a role better adapted to its means and resources.

It was inevitable that new conditions in the world, in Europe and in Canada, should lead the Government and people of this country to attempt to define the place it should occupy in the international community.

One of the first conclusions to emerge from our studies is that Canada's role in the defence of the European continent as a member of NATO must be more in keeping with the realities of the world in which we live and with the internal situation in Canada itself. There is no question of Canada's becoming a neutral country, passive and isolated. I believe that such a move would be at variance with our common aims and interests. It is with this in mind that the Government has recently decided to continue its participation in NATO while reviewing Canada's role in the alliance.

There are two main factors involved. Firstly, Canada is the only country, apart from the United States, contributing to two collective security systems - NATO and NORAD, which joins us with the United States in the defence of North America. The question is - to what extent can we contribute to NATO in Europe while assuring our sovereignty and security? When we add to these major military deployments the various peacekeeping tasks performed by Canada throughout the world under the auspices of the United Nations, we are faced with the realization that the Canadian military budget, like all other budgets, must be established in a context of priorities.