

To assist in the review of current procurement programmes and in the consideration of future policy, a special advisory group has been set up in the Department under the chairmanship of Dr. R.J. Sutherland, Chief of Operational Research in the Defence Research Board. This group has undertaken a number of studies intended to demonstrate the reasons for and against a particular course of action and to list the available options. It does not make recommendations. This committee, which has been functioning for some weeks now, reports directly to the Minister.

As soon as a review of existing procurement programmes is complete and decisions taken, which I hope will be within a few weeks, the general review of future policy will commence. It is intended that it will be a most thoroughgoing study. We will consider not only the best tasks and contributions which Canada can make in future years but also how they can be most efficiently organized. The recommendations of the Glassco Commission are being studied and will be considered in the context of future policy. The relations between our forces and those of our allies will be considered. In this connection I am pleased that General Lemnitzer, the new Supreme Allied Commander Europe, will pay a visit to Ottawa on July 23, and that we will have the opportunity to discuss mutual problems. It is also fortunate that the general review of NATO strategy being undertaken by the Standing Group will be going ahead simultaneously with our own studies. This should greatly facilitate our appreciation of future requirements of the alliance and the best use of available resources to meet those requirements. An interim report by the Standing Group is expected to be available in time for the ministers' meeting in December. Assuming this to be the case, it is hoped that notwithstanding the considerable scope and magnitude of our studies we will be in a position to reach conclusions early in the New Year. I am sure that the views of this Committee will be most helpful in assisting us to determine the best role for Canada to play in future years....

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