

with a sizable military contribution, Canada has been able to give vigorous promotion to the emerging institutions and practices of consultation. As an instrument for the continuous exchange of information and the process of planning and consultation, NATO offers distinct advantages to the smaller powers, involving them in information and consultation activities as a matter of routine rather than the sporadic act of grace by the great powers. In view of Canada's particular position vis-à-vis the United States, NATO may also be said to act as a safety mechanism against neutralism on the one hand, and satellite status, on the other.

With its permanent apparatus to adjust diverging policies and to facilitate routine transactions among a group of countries with a high co-efficient of interdependence, NATO represents the most advanced form of peacetime alliance system that has yet been devised. Even as such, however, it has distinct limitations. From this one may conclude that the recognition of the inherent limitations underlying a pluralistic alliance and an allowance for diversity constitute the best guarantee for the Atlantic Alliance's continued survival and flexible adaptation to changing circumstances.