

# Foreword

Peace is the foremost issue of modern times. The world must find some way to achieve it in lasting measure if mankind is to avoid disaster and establish an acceptable degree of harmony and international security.

This is the belief of the Special Committee of the Senate on National Defence, which unhesitatingly endorses Canada's policy of arms control and disarmament as well as the effort to maintain a stable military balance. The committee fully supported the objectives of former Prime Minister Trudeau's peace initiative, since endorsed by the current government, and remains firmly convinced that it is Canada's vocation to encourage the relentless pursuit of peace in our world.

The committee is especially concerned about the current state of East-West relations and the danger that it may give rise to a major new spiral in the arms race. Like many others, it is worried that if something is not done soon to curb the development and deployment of new strategic weaponry, then the opportunity to control the situation may be gone forever.

Canada is directly involved because of its geographic location between the superpowers and because partnership with the United States in continental defence is essential. Canadians cannot escape their strategic environment, but they can contribute to managing it by performing effectively in the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) and by pursuing other military and diplomatic policies designed to promote stability and confidence.

The committee firmly believes that Canada has a duty to itself and to the world in general to take a full and active part in preserving the security of this continent, particularly over Canada's own territory and waters. Lasting peace is not just waiting around the corner. It has to be pursued with vigour and imagination. We believe that the experience of the last forty years shows that peace cannot be achieved by putting our faith in illusions or letting down our guard. Canada must keep up, by itself and in association with friendly nations having the same heritage and values, the military manpower, equipment, and other resources needed to deter attack by adversaries and preserve general international stability.

Having inquired into Canada's armed forces manpower and into its maritime defence, and having reported on both, the committee turned to an examination of the air defence of North America and the protection of Canada's own airspace. It became conscious of the growing obsolescence of present North American radar networks and other warning systems and learned that there are great gaps in surveillance coverage of North American airspace at the present time. It also became aware that Canada and the United States are engaged in intensive