

connection two decisions of importance to Canada and the Alliance were taken, both of which were noted in the communiqué.

The first was concerned with the ability of the Alliance to deal with the obvious threat posed by the Soviet Union's mounting arsenal of nuclear weapons. Paragraph 8 of the communiqué described decisions taken by the Council to regroup and organize certain elements of the nuclear deterrent forces under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. These forces will henceforth include the whole of the United Kingdom V-bomber force and three United States "Polaris" submarines. This formidable new strength to be at the disposal of SACEUR will be added to certain tactical nuclear forces already in being or programmed and already assigned to him. This decision was of direct relevance to Canadian forces in Europe for, by indicating our willingness to arm the Canadian air division with the weapons which will enable it to discharge the strike role to which it was committed ..., the way has been opened to permit Canada to play its part in the new arrangements.

Let me make it perfectly clear this decision in no way makes Canada a member of the "nuclear club" in the sense of owning or manufacturing nuclear warheads. Indeed, the decisions taken at this meeting affecting the Organization of the Alliance's existing nuclear forces are entirely consistent with resolutions unanimously adopted by the United Nations to avoid the further spread of nuclear weapons under independent national control. Custody of the nuclear armament of all the forces involved, with the exception of the United Kingdom bombers, will remain as before with the United States. I also want to make it clear that there is no new assignment involved for Canadian forces, as they were already assigned ... to SACEUR's command. These arrangements were welcomed by the Canadian delegation as steps which, through the greater sharing of knowledge and responsibility for nuclear defence, will help to knit the Alliance together and, in the words of the communiqué, "improve co-ordination and control of its nuclear deterrent forces"....

The steps I mentioned earlier should be seen as part of the democratization of the Alliance with respect to the exercise of its heavy responsibilities in the nuclear field.

The second decision of importance is recorded in Paragraph 9 of the communiqué, where the need to achieve a satisfactory balance between nuclear and conventional forces was recognized. To this end, the Permanent Council has been instructed to undertake, with the advice of the NATO military authorities, a comprehensive review of the interrelated questions of strategy, force requirements and the resources available to meet them. I have already mentioned that NATO must be able to offer a range of responses to any challenge, and this means that, if that challenge is conventional, then the conventional means must be available to meet it without premature recourse to nuclear weapons. At the same time the nuclear strength must be there to deter any possibility of a direct challenge with nuclear weapons.