

R EVAMPING CANADIAN DEFENCE

... the world is not always as benign or predictable as we would wish ... the spectre, if not the reality, of violence is ever present and ... those who do not look to their own military forces can become the victims of the forces of others.

— The White Paper on Defence

Collective security, arms control and disarmament, and the peaceful resolution of international disputes are the three cornerstones of Canada's first major defence policy paper in 16 years.

"We are not a militaristic people, but we are a nation with a proud and long military history," Defence Minister Perrin Beatty told the Canadian House of Commons after tabling the policy paper June 5. "In two world wars and in Korea we built an honourable reputation for pulling more than our weight when called upon to defend our way of life, our national institutions and our democratic values."

Implementation of the paper over the next 15 years "will provide for the continuing security of Canadians in a changing world, and will equip the Canadian Forces with the capabilities they need to become and to remain effective into the twenty-first century," the minister said.

Key objectives of the policy paper include the following:

- Establishment of "a three-ocean navy to protect our three-ocean country," to replace a marine fleet that ranges in age from 16 to over 30 years. A balanced mix of surface vessels with helicopters, maritime patrol aircraft, and nuclear-powered submarines will enable Canada to assert its sovereignty in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans, while contributing more effectively to the defence of North America.
- Canada's commitment to the defence of Europe will be consolidated. In recent years, Mr. Beatty said, it had become clear that Canada's land and air forces in Europe were "unsupportable in action and unsustainable once committed." To make more efficient use of available personnel and equipment, Canadian expeditionary forces that had previously been committed to north Norway will now be deployed to West Germany in an emergency. "By concentrating and streamlining combat forces and their associated support, supply and sustainment arrangements in one area," the policy paper states, "we will make the Canadian Forces in Europe more effective and thus enhance our



contribution to collective defence."

A fleet of main battle tanks and other heavy equipment will be pre-positioned in West Germany for operations in Europe's Central Front, and Canada's 4th Brigade Group will also be equipped with new tanks to support its operations in southwestern Germany. A Canadian battalion group may still be assigned to Norway through the Multinational Allied Mobile Force, a small task force which is available to defend any threatened flank within Allied Command Europe.

- Training and equipment for Canadian reservists will be improved through the introduction of a "total force concept" that reduces distinctions between the regular and reserve forces. The strength of the reserve will be increased from 25 000 to 65 000 over a 15-year period.

Security in a changing world: Canada's new defence policy.

The policy will be implemented within the context of a continuing commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the North American Air Defence (NORAD) agreement. The effectiveness of Canada's defence forces will be sustained by a minimum 2 per cent annual increase in real defence spending, and a continuous sequence of long-term defence capital projects. At the same time, Canadian forces will continue their vigorous participation in search and rescue, international peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, and emergency assistance activities on the domestic and international scenes.