

States and some of the other larger countries such as France and Germany?

Mr. Golden: Yes, I think any renegotiation of the Canadian role in NATO should most certainly be done in closest consultation with the members of the alliance and, although I have no special knowledge in this regard it may be, as you say, that it would be particularly necessary that we should consult with the smaller members; it may very well be.

The reason I keep mentioning consultation with the United States is that it is part of my central theme—that there is nothing more important for the long-term future of this country than that we should understand what the United States hopes to achieve out of these various alliances and they should understand what it is we hope to achieve; that they should understand there are Canadian thoughts and views, as Mr. Brewin said earlier, which in some particulars will be very different from theirs. But I keep coming back to the central core of my theme, which is that Canadian American relations are paramount in all of these areas. But I agree with your comment.

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Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): In regard to the premise that you have just stated, I think it is a fair assumption that Russia probably fears West Germany more than any other aspect of stability in Europe. For that reason and also for other reasons the United States must place very great importance upon the role of West Germany as well. How much do you believe the West German picture vis-à-vis the situation in France affects American thinking that may relate back to us in our relationship with the United States in NATO policy?

Mr. Golden: I have no doubt that all of these things are matters of great importance. I myself have never been able to find convincing an argument which is sometimes put forward—I am not suggesting that you have put it forward—that we really must stay in NATO to make sure that Germany behaves itself. I cannot conceive that this is an appropriate role for Canadian forces in Europe.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): My next question, Mr. Chairman, relates to my own interest and experience in Africa and the role that we have to play in the emerging areas such as Africa. How much do you feel that our relationship in NATO, as it reflects to

such countries as Portugal, affects our external policy in other parts of the world such as Africa, and how does it affect our own position as far as the world is concerned?

Mr. Golden: There are anomalies in our foreign policy. There are anomalies in every country's foreign policy. We all remember so well not so many years ago when a very important and very populous country was telling others how wrong they were to worry about Communism and then suddenly a very aggressive neighbour got a little rambunctious on the border and this preaching ceased almost instantly. I feel that what you have said is a difficulty but there are these difficulties in all manifestations of a country's foreign policy, which presumably will represent an amalgam of the best of what is possible and feasible in the pursuit of national interest. And that is why I was careful to say in the introductory paragraph of my brief that I did not think any of the terms that are commonly used—the free world and the Western world—are really all that accurate but that they do have some semblance of truth in them.

The Chairman: Mr. Winch.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, honestly I believe that Mr. Golden is a bit more of an expert that he is leading us to believe. My first question was asked by Mr. Stewart. I would like to ask a couple of questions based on an area in which this Committee is interested and upon which I am certain that Mr. Golden is an expert.

I believe, Mr. Golden, that you were the Deputy Minister of Defence Production for some two years? Approximately.

Mr. Golden: No, it was a lot longer than that.

Mr. Winch: All right. You were the Deputy Minister of Defence Production. Mr. Golden, because you are the first witness that we have had with any knowledge of this most important aspect of our discussion, could you from your experience and knowledge, first of all let us know whether the Department of Defence Production was strictly a contract letting department, working on the basis of the request and specifications supplied you by the Department of National Defence?

And may I put the second question at the same time. Can you give the Committee an understanding as to what was the policy and what were the procedures whereby you tried