

going...forward together to a secure and hopeful future without France." 20 By the end of the year it was apparent that the alliance had adjusted to the withdrawal of France, and the members felt that NATO had "a more constructive and unifying spirit." 21

Issue VI - Canadian troops in Europe

The commitment of forces to Europe is an issue that has continually caused various groups within Canada to demand the withdrawal of all troops. This had made it necessary for governments to give reassuring statements that the forces will remain in Europe "as long as international disquiet and justifiable fears require Canadian participation." 22 The framing of the commitment in these terms has meant that the Government could withdraw the troops whenever it negotiated their removal with our NATO allies and there has always been this element of doubt concerning the stationing of troops in Europe

When the White Paper on Defence was tabled in March 1964 it noted that "our major defence contribution for some time will continue to be participation in collective security defensive arrangements, mainly the North Atlantic Treaty Organization." 23 During his speech to the Cleveland Council on World Affairs Mr. Martin noted that "in the absence of durable political settlements, we regard the continued participation of North American land and air power in the defence of Western Europe as both vital and inescapable." 24 Shortly before this statement, however, the Prime Minister had said that "we may have to consider new arrangements by which Europe takes responsibility for the security of one side of the Atlantic, North America for the other....Canada will have to consider very seriously whether the contribution we are presently making overseas to NATO is the best use of our resources for the defence of peace." 25 Since 1965, however, public statements would indicate that the present European commitment will remain for the next few years at any rate. This is supported by the second reading of Bill C-243 to unify the Services in December of 1966, and by Mr. Martin's statement that "Canada's interests and responsibilities require an appropriate continuing contribution to the military strength of NATO." 26 These statements coupled with the move of the air units to their bases in Germany indicate the government's current thinking - at least public thinking - on the question of troops in Europe.