

INTRODUCTION

As we move towards the last years of this century, Canada needs a new defence policy that will establish realistic guidelines for this country's efforts in such fields as aerospace surveillance, protection of coastal waters, and the maintenance of world peace and security. It has to be a policy that furthers Canada's broader security and foreign affairs objectives, and that offers some hope of providing resources for the commitments that are undertaken.

The last major statement of government policy on defence was the White Paper issued in 1987, entitled: *Challenge and Commitment*. Everyone recognizes that there have been extraordinary changes in the world scene since that time, and that a rethinking of Canada's security and defence policies is now essential. These have to take account of some remarkable developments in the Soviet Union and Central Europe; of changing Atlantic relationships; of the Gulf War; and of other challenges posed to the international community by conflicts elsewhere in the Third World.

Canada's own situation has also evolved in important ways since 1987. At the international level, Canada has decided to withdraw 1,400 military personnel from Germany in response to reduced tensions in Europe, and has participated actively in NATO discussions on the future shape of the Alliance and its military forces. Canada committed forces to the Persian Gulf in support of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, and thus involved itself in a situation which led to outright warfare. Developments at home in this period have included the Oka crisis of the summer of 1990, and further efforts to define a new government defence policy in light of changing requirements and the prospect of new, increasingly severe budgetary pressures. Canada has also now renewed its participation in the North American Aerospace Defence Agreement (NORAD) for a further five-year period.

Developing an effective new defence policy for Canada in this context is not an easy task. International commitments need to be adjusted to a rapidly evolving world situation, and could become more onerous in some areas if there were further