

contributed substantial forces and equipment to make up deficiencies. It is well known that at the present time we maintain an infantry brigade and an air division in full readiness in Europe. However, it is becoming increasingly evident that our responsibility in the defence of the North American sector of the NATO area increases with every improvement in the ability of the Soviet Bloc to launch long-range nuclear attacks, and we are fully aware of the importance to the whole alliance of our preparations to defend Canada and to play our part in the defence of the industrial heart of North America.

In addition to the Canadian Government's recognition of its defence responsibilities under the Alliance, my Government has also an active interest in promoting the non-military aspects of co-operation within the North Atlantic Community. It is our hope that new ways can be found to strengthen the sense of community which we feel with other member countries. Canada derives 85% of her imports from the North Atlantic area, and sends to it a similar percentage of her exports. I might add that nearly all of our population originated in other countries of the Alliance - a good and valuable part of them from Scotland, with whom Canadians have particularly close links of friendship and from which we derive some of our most cherished imports.

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