

The Division's North American Section remained closely involved in the implementation of the Government's decisions contained in the White Paper concerning the protection of Canadian sovereignty and the defence of North America, and also maintained liaison with the various departments and agencies dealing with emergency planning. The Section represented the Department of External Affairs as a member of Canada-U.S. civil emergency planning committees.

NATO Section

The Government's views on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, particularly in the political sphere, were outlined in the volume on Europe of *Foreign Policy for Canadians*, published in 1970. The defence White Paper of August 1971 further defined the Government's position and indicated its intentions with respect to Canada's military contributions to the alliance. In the White Paper, the Government "reaffirmed Canada's adherence to the concept of collective security, and announced that Canada would continue to station significant though reduced forces in Europe as part of the NATO integrated force structure.... The decision reflected the Government's judgment that Canadian security continues to be linked to Western Europe and that Europe is still probably the most sensitive point in the East-West balance of power. It is the area from which any conflict, however limited, might most readily escalate into all-out nuclear war engulfing Canadian territory".

While a deliberate attack on Western Europe now seems improbable -- in large measure as a result of NATO's success over the years -- hostilities could still occur as a result of miscalculation or accident. Nevertheless, a number of developments took place during 1971 that indicate a certain measure of progress toward *détente* in Europe. In September, the first stage of the Berlin negotiations reached a successful conclusion with the signing of a Four-Power Agreement on Berlin. With agreement on the second stage of those negotiations, the inter-German talks in early December, a major step forward was taken. When the third and final stage of the Berlin talks has been successfully concluded, multilateral talks on a wide-ranging conference on security and co-operation in Europe will be able to take place.

At their meeting in Lisbon in June 1971, foreign ministers of countries participating in NATO's integrated defence program reaffirmed their desire to discuss the subject of mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) with the Soviet Union and other European countries. They welcomed the response of Soviet leaders, indicating possible readiness to consider this subject, and agreed that continued efforts should be made to determine whether common ground existed on which to base MBFR negotiations. Accordingly, at a meeting of deputy foreign ministers and senior officials held in Brussels on October 5 and 6, the mandate of a representative to conduct exploratory talks with the Soviet Government and other governments concerned was discussed and approved and Mr. Manlio Brosio was invited to be the representative. At the North Atlantic Council meeting in Brussels in December, the ministers noted with regret that the Soviet Union had so far failed to respond to the allied initiative. They reaffirmed their support for Mr. Brosio's exploratory mission and expressed the hope that he would soon be able to go to Moscow.