

Revisionist Attitudes and Academics:<sup>1.</sup>

The anti-NATO argument encompasses three key themes which run through the majority of writings by revisionists. One theme accepts the proposition of a changed Europe (politically, economically and militarily) to such an extent that NATO has outlived its original function. Europe is now capable of defending herself, and therefore NATO should be discarded. While the first theme visualizes no alliance whatsoever, the second centres around the value of the Canadian contribution. The Canadian military commitment has no strategic value, and its main function is political. Since Canadian influence is minimal, why should there be a contribution of troops to Europe? An offshoot of this theme rejects the present Canadian role, acceptance of tactical nuclear weapons, but since it is apparent the Government insists on contributing to NATO then the commitment should be of a conventional form. Withdrawal is preferable, but if not then the Government should change the role. The third major theme of the anti-NATO group is the need for Canada to have an independent foreign policy. Only by disassociation from U.S. dominated alliances is it possible for Canada to be truly independent, and once independent Canada will be able to assume a more important role in the international system. This theme often stems from a rejection of present U.S. policies, primarily in Vietnam.

If the anti-NATO group did not go beyond the three above mentioned themes they could be classified as isolationists. However, the majority would adopt a universalistic type of foreign policy encompassing two major elements: i) the need for a massive increase in assistance to the developing nations to help close the widening gap between the developed and the under-developed nations of the world, and ii) the need for more positive action in the area of peacekeeping as a means of enhancing stability in the international system. The remainder of this section will develop the above positions in greater detail.

The theme of a changed Europe is argued by Edward McWhinney<sup>2</sup> because "the political security system that has dominated Europe for most of the postwar period is out of date, and the facts that gave it its original raison d'être have long since disappeared." At the time of the Cuban crisis the twin bloc system "lost its motive force as a system designed to contain the expansionist drives of either side."