



# Bulletin

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## QUESTIONS MILITARY AND ECONOMIC - MR. TRUDEAU REPLIES

*During a recent visit to the Pauline Johnson Secondary School in Brantford, Ontario, Prime Minister Trudeau took part in a question period that covered a variety of topics. Excerpts from the session follow:*

**Q:** Mr. Trudeau, this concerns NATO. I was just wondering if we are in or out?

**A:** Well, we are very much in NATO. We entered it more than 20 years ago, as you know, as an attempt to ensure peace in the North Atlantic area. We have stated this Government's policy several times over the past few years. We published a white paper indicating that, as an alliance for peace, we felt that NATO was extremely important and that we wanted to play our role in it. But what we have done is to decide that we would reduce the Canadian troops in Europe by one half over a period of a few years. The reasons for that were given. I think that they are accepted and understood by our European partners in NATO; they realize that the world is a big place in which to ensure peace, that Canada has engaged its

forces in the four corners of the earth in peace-keeping operations under the direction of the United Nations, that we also have to make some provision for defence of the North American continent, which is very big - we don't want to leave that only to the Americans. And it is important now that Europe, 20 years, almost 30 years after the last war, has become a strong continent rich economically and well developed. It is important that they be able to look after their own defence, rather than Canadians going over to help defend them in great numbers. Therefore, we are in NATO, we have reduced the number of troops in NATO, but we have not had anything like a withdrawal, a total withdrawal of our troops.

**Q:** Well, if these troops are... these troops in Europe....

**A:** These troops are part of the alliance, part of the NATO defence commitment, which extends in various parts of Europe and indeed in the Atlantic Ocean. Some of the Canadian Navy is assigned to NATO functions in patrolling the North Atlantic especially. We have made certain decisions as regards our Air Force for instance; we have decided we would phase it out of a nuclear role. Under NATO, some of the aircraft are nuclear-arms carrying, and we decided that we didn't believe in this role for Canada, and therefore we have phased ourselves out of that, but we are still part of the alliance in Europe and in NATO.

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### UNPEGGING THE DOLLAR

**Q:** ...I would like to ask you, what justification did your Government have when it unpegged the dollar, thus destroying the ability of the Canadian manufacturing industry to be competitive in foreign markets?

**A:** That is a very important question and a difficult one to explain in simple terms, but I will try to answer. The question is: "Why did we unpeg