

Indeed, it is precisely this desire to raise the nuclear threshold that underlies the argument in favour of much stronger Western conventional forces, not just in Europe but in other important areas of the world as well.<sup>7</sup> Unfortunately, as made clear in Competitiveness and Security, Canada's military capability and preparedness were allowed to deteriorate severely in the 1960s and for much of the 1970s as well.<sup>8</sup> However, during this period there was no corresponding contraction of Canada's basic military and security commitments. Canada maintained its commitment to common defence within the NATO alliance on land, air and sea, with regard both to Europe and to North America, and to protect and promote its own territorial security and sovereignty. As a result, by the late 1970s and early 1980s, a yawning gap had come to exist between the various defence obligations accepted by successive Canadian governments on the one hand, and the military forces and equipment required to meet these commitments, on the other. Our deep concern over this unsatisfactory state of affairs prompted the Business Council to establish a special Task Force on Foreign Policy and Defence in 1981. After three years of extensive investigation, we published a document outlining the key problems confronting Canadian security policy in the current and emerging international environment, and proposed a fairly detailed plan designed to bring Canadian military capability up to a level commensurate with the country's defence commitments over a period of 10-12 years.<sup>9</sup>

Examples of Canada's military deficiencies are not difficult to find. As part of NATO, Canada maintains land and air forces in Europe -- the 4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (4CMBG), and the 1st Canadian Air Group (ICAG). We have also designated further Canadian-based forces for deployment to Allied Command Europe (ACE) in the event of crisis, and agreed to commit an air-sea transportable brigade group (CAST) to Norway, and a mobile infantry battalion group and additional fighter squadrons to the