



# Statements and Speeches

---

No. 84/10

## CANADA, NATO AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Notes for Remarks by the Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn, Government Leader in the House of Commons, at the Thirtieth Annual Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association, Toronto, October 9, 1984.

...In expressing my appreciation for the Council's [Atlantic Council of Canada] work, I realize they have not been aided by two developments. Several North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials who would normally have been with us today are at an important meeting of alliance defence ministers in Italy. Canada has recently had a general election and many of us are relatively new to the challenges of the ministry. The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Mr. Clark, and the Minister of National Defence, are otherwise engaged. However, the support of our government for the North Atlantic alliance, and the ideals it represents, has been made quite clear, and I am here today to emphasize that basic point....

Canada was a founding member of NATO, a voluntary association of sovereign and democratic nations which became the first multilateral military alliance to span the Atlantic in time of peace. The participation of Canada and the United States was a new departure — the first time that we in North America pledged ourselves to the peacetime defence of others. For Canada's part, that commitment, made 35 years ago, remains as strong as ever.

I might say — without being indiscreet — that, as one of his first acts in office, Mr. Clark recently wrote Lord Carrington to reaffirm that commitment. NATO, Mr. Clark said, is the cornerstone of Canadian security policy. Canada is a Western nation, committed to the ideals of individual and collective freedoms. On these principles we shall not compromise.

Canada saw NATO originally as more than a military alliance. We saw it as the foundation of a transatlantic community. We saw it as a means to prevent the forceful domination of the world by one country or group of countries. And we envisaged an alliance which would be more than reactive to the pace of developments elsewhere in the world. We sought, and we seek today, an alliance that is prepared to take initiatives in shaping a more peaceful and secure world.

To do this, our alliance must be more than the aggregate of our combined armed forces. It is true that, for 35 years, NATO's strategy of deterrence has been effective. We must continue to ensure that it is. But as Lord Carrington has recently said, our deterrent strategy must be firmly anchored within an over-arching political framework. The alliance must possess "political brain as well as military brawn".

Canada — working together with its partners — seeks an alliance which can bring to bear the full force of its collective political, economic, defence and moral suasion. Our democratic ideals and freedoms speak for themselves. We should be confident of them. In seeking a more peaceful world we should, above all else, build upon the essence of Western values and principles.

---