

In looking back over the first 25 years and the profound changes that occurred in the circumstances facing the Alliance, the capacity it demonstrated to respond effectively to new challenges is striking. In addition to keeping the peace, NATO developed into a major forum for the exchange of information and the harmonization of views on issues of common concern to its members that range from *détente* to science and the environment. The process of continuing consultation on a wide range of shared problems is of particular value to smaller NATO members such as Canada because it provides them direct access to the thinking of their allies and an opportunity to bring their own views to bear.

*The Permanent Representatives of the 15 NATO countries sit on the North Atlantic Council, which meets weekly in Brussels. The Council is the highest authority of the Atlantic Alliance.*

*NATO Photo*