

Final comments on the Naval Reserve

As in all other matters relating to defence forces, however, the over-riding concern must remain the combat-readiness of the reserve forces on which DND places such great hopes for a credible total force. The sub-committee has offered some suggestions for improvements at modest cost. Perhaps they or others like them can help bridge the gap. But in the end, money will have to be spent to rebuild the reserves. They have been the victims of very serious neglect — “an attempt to stamp them out”,¹³ in one view — and they cannot be nursed back to health without a major injection of some of the funds denied them during long years of neglect. It is the sub-committee’s fervent hope that the highly-deserving men and women in the Naval Reserves will not have to wait any longer.

The importance of non-military resources

Canada does not require a large military force in peacetime, but it is necessary to ensure that machinery exist to permit the rapid mobilization of civilian resources in a crisis or during military operations.

The importance of such mobilization arrangements was well illustrated by the air committee. VADair Power, for example, stressed in his report that what is required is the necessary machinery to ensure that the extraordinary contributions which the citizen can make to victory in the following kind of a crisis were presented to the British Parliament by the Secretary of State in December 1962. “The campaign brought forth the significant fact that such resources can make to the nation’s security.”

Military augmentation, reinforcement and mobilization

Unfortunately, Canada planning in this area has been very limited. Canada has accepted responsibility for the total defence of the North Atlantic region of Canadian Forces Europe, but the sub-committee was surprised to find in its first report that in the event of a major crisis, Canada would have to make its own arrangements for the mobilization of its own resources. It is a matter of fact that the sub-committee has still to report on a system of mobilization which would allow the sub-committee to still report on a system of mobilization which would allow the

Proceedings of the Senate Sub-committee on National Defence, 27 March 1982.

¹³ *Proceedings of the Senate Sub-committee on National Defence*, 18 May, 1982, p. 29:7.