

I should like to add that, this morning, before coming here, I spent some time with the members of the NATO Defence College, who are here in Canada as they have been in other NATO member countries. This organization is predicated somewhat on the experience of our own National Defence College. It similarly hopes to emulate the Imperial Defence College. It is made up of senior officers who come from all of the NATO countries and who are in Canada to learn about Canada, its problems, its foreign and its defence policy.

Before I conclude my statement I wish to say something to the Committee about the concern I have had for some time past about the need to improve the co-ordination and planning of government foreign, economic and defence policy. May I remind you of what I said in another capacity in the House of Commons last January 24:

"One striking fact it seems to me in international affairs today is the interrelatedness of a nation's defence policy, its foreign economic policy and its over-all policy. These three areas, which in the past we have tended to look upon separately, now must be considered all together. Indeed, the continued nature of this interrelatedness has major implications, as I see it, for our own foreign policy, particularly in the area of planning and co-ordinating of our own efforts and our own policies. Perhaps we should be considering some alterations. Do we have over-all planning and co-ordination of effort in the Government at the present time which gives its total attention to a particular problem in external relations and is continually casting its eye up and down the radar screen looking for problems in areas where Canada can exert an influence? The diplomatic influence and effectiveness of a nation is a total process, a composite whole, in which our political conduct, the state of our alliances, the amount of foreign assistance which we give, our military power, our domestic economic situation, operate all together."

The Canadian Government is now committed to a national review of defence policy and to a NATO defence review which will require the direct collaboration between the Departments of External Affairs, Finance and National Defence. My colleagues and I are now examining ways and means of improving inter-departmental co-operation. Neither foreign policy nor defence policy can remain static in the nuclear age and we must always be searching for improvements to the policies and the ways they are carried out. As I said in January:

"We need to be constantly re-examining our foreign-policy objectives, constantly querying the means by which these objectives are carried out. Let us not exaggerate our achievement, but let us bear in mind that in this difficult period there must be stated goals of foreign policy carefully adhered to, respected by all branches of the Government, the Defence Department as well as the Department of External Affairs."