

support for the principle of collective defence -- sufficient to permit my Government to increase the Canadian defence budget by 12.5 per cent last year and another 11.5 per cent this year. I am equally satisfied that this support is the product of the wide-ranging public debate undertaken by my Government several years ago. That support continues today notwithstanding the desire for *détente* and the impact of inflation. It continues because Canadians understand the need for NATO and believe in its constructive aims as well as its defensive concepts. Equally, however, if my colleagues and I find ourselves at any time unable to explain convincingly to Canadians the basic rationale and defence strategy of this organization, that support would diminish as surely as we sit here today.

I have come here, Mr. Chairman, for three reasons:

*The first* is to state clearly and unequivocally Canada's belief in the concept of collective security, Canada's support for NATO, and Canada's pledge to maintain a NATO force level which is accepted by our allies as being adequate in size and effective in character. As long as the Warsaw Pact continues to increase the size and preparedness of its forces, we cannot afford to leave them unopposed.

*The second reason* is to urge that we at this table accept as an essential ingredient of consultation the continuous challenging of alliance tactics and strategies, because, unless we, as governments, are convinced of their worth, we shall be in no position to convince our followers or our Parliaments. I plead for more frequent opportunities for NATO heads of government to gather together for consultation, to discuss among ourselves the essential political questions and to suggest the appropriate political responses. I say this because the strength and the credibility of this alliance depend upon its political, every bit as much as its military, character. We as political leaders must consider and be satisfied with the wisdom of the basic strategies and military plans of our advisers. We can best do that by more frequent consultations.

*The third reason* is to urge that we so organize ourselves as to mount and sustain -- perhaps through CCMS [the Committee on the Challenges to Modern Society], as suggested by President Ford -- a challenge of peace and of human dignity to the Warsaw Pact. Prime Minister Wilson referred to this theme when he drew upon the experience of the Commonwealth Conference and later when he stressed the need to lend emphasis to the MBFR exercise.

President Ford yesterday concluded his address with an appeal that, together, we "build to face the challenges of the future". Some of