

strong support to the military side of NATO as is clearly indicated in the Speaker's Handbook 1957 (p. 95-96). The CCF, on the other hand, while not completely rejecting the NATO strategy would have liked less emphasis on the military aspects and more on the economic. One reason for fairly strong CCF support for NATO the middle 1950's was the increased emphasis on the need to implement the economic co-operation and consultation aspects of the treaty. The Committee of Three was set up to report on ways to implement Article Two, and the Liberals continued to press strongly for increased consultation within NATO along political, economic, and cultural lines.¹³ The Conservatives did not stress this aspect of NATO to the same extent as the other parties.

The picture emerging from this first period is that while "Canada's defence policies...were supported by a remarkable consensus. Issues of defence policy were not politically important...and played only minor parts in the national elections of 1953 and 1957."¹⁴ The conclusion just quoted is substantiated by table No. 1 which indicates party support for NATO during the first period, and while somewhat over-simplified it does show that considerable consensus existed.

Table No. 1 - Political Parties and Support for NATO: 1949-57:
Relative Consensus Achieved.

<u>Issue</u>	Support for				
	military force level	increase force level	Art. II	increase economic & political aspects	NATO nuclear strategy
Party					
Liberal	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (qualified)
Progressive Conservative	Yes	Yes (qualified)	Yes	Did not stress	Yes
Co-operative Commonwealth Federation	Yes (qualified)	No	Yes	Yes	No (qualified)

Note: A 'Yes: qualified' means support with reservations, and a 'No: qualified' means rejection in part.

For three of the five issues mentioned general agreement existed and for the other two, increased force level, and nuclear strategy, only qualified disagreement. All parties supported NATO, and even though there were differences in emphasis, no bitter disputes arose over basic policy.