

a strategy of defence and deterrence based on a triad of inter-continental and theatre nuclear forces and conventional forces. Major decisions concerning the acquisition of new equipment for Canada's defence forces were taken in 1980. Early in the year, orders were placed with McDonnell Douglas for the CF-18 jet fighter interceptor aircraft to serve in Canada's jet fighter squadrons, and in November the number of consortia in the competition for the design contract for six patrol frigates was reduced to two. Other new or ongoing programs included the entry into service of the *Aurora* long-range patrol aircraft, the DELEX program for refit and modernization of 18 of the navy's frigates, and the completion of delivery of new armoured personnel carriers. The entry into service of this and other new equipment will increase the effectiveness with which Canada fulfils its NATO defence obligations.

The NATO consultation process provides member nations with the opportunity to discuss major events in East-West relations and to react quickly in a time of crisis. In late December 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and as 1980 opened, Soviet forces were continuing to enter the country on a massive scale. After a series of meetings at the level of senior officials, a special meeting of NATO's Defence Planning Committee, attended by both foreign and defence ministers, was convened to examine ways to bolster the Alliance's defence in light of the clearly demonstrated expansionist tendencies of the Soviet Union. The Secretary of State for External Affairs also attended the regular ministerial meetings of the North Atlantic Council in Ankara in June and at NATO headquarters in December. The Afghanistan crisis, the continuing Warsaw Pact arms build-up and, in December, the threat hanging over Poland of a possible Soviet military intervention, were among the major issues discussed by the foreign ministers at their meetings.

Other centres of attention in NATO consultations during 1980 were the second review meeting of the CSCE, which opened in Madrid in October, and a wide range of East-West arms control and disarmament issues (see below) including the ongoing MBFR negotiations in Vienna and the question of the SALT process between the United States and the Soviet Union. NATO also served as a meeting place for national experts to discuss a variety of subjects, some extending beyond the NATO area. In particular, there were regular sessions of the Committee on the Challenges to Modern Society and of the Science Committee.

In April, the Secretary-General of NATO visited Ottawa to pay official calls on members of the new government.

Bilateral defence co-operation

Canada has bilateral defence arrangements with a number of its NATO partners. Those that deal with the defence of the Canada-United States region of NATO necessitate the closest consultation and co-operation between the two countries. Our primary aims are the maintenance of Canadian sovereignty and security through our contribution to the collective defence of North America.

The principal consultative body dealing with continental defence is the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, Canada-United States, which is jointly presided over by two national chairmen who report directly to their respective heads of government. During 1980, the Board examined such issues as the improvement of North American air defence systems, possible increased use by the United States of military test ranges in Canada, and the continuing value of the bilateral defence production- and development-sharing programs.

The agreement establishing NORAD is examined periodically to ensure its continued effectiveness under changing circumstances. In May 1980, the agreement was extended for one year to enable the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence to consider the terms on which it might be renewed. After extensive hearings, the Committee unanimously recommended in December that the agreement be renewed for five years, and emphasized the desirability of Canadian participation in the space-based programs of NORAD, particularly surveillance.

While military preparedness is an obvious priority of Canada's bilateral relations with the United States, military and civilian teamwork in peacetime tasks such as search and rescue, weather prediction and reporting, civil emergency planning and northern research, are important continuing activities.

Military training assistance program

An interdepartmental committee chaired by the Department of External Affairs administers the military training assistance program. Where positions are available, training is provided on request for military personnel of certain non-NATO countries. This program provides a wide range of instruction, including basic officer and junior staff training as well as military trade courses. In 1980, 56 candidates from Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean were trained in Canada, the great majority attending officer courses.

Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)

The SALT process—the attempt by the superpowers to negotiate limits on strategic nuclear arms—suffered a setback in 1980. The SALT II treaty, signed by Presidents Carter and Brezhnev in Vienna on June 18, 1979 after nearly ten years of difficult negotiations, was seen by many as a major advance in the vitally important task of seeking agreement to curtail the nuclear arms race. In the United States, however, views on the merits of SALT II were sharply divided. The number of senators who opposed the treaty from the outset on the grounds that it was unbalanced in favour of the Soviet Union was such that the prospects for ratification in the Senate were at best uncertain. Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Carter in January asked the Senate to postpone further action until a more propitious time. Later in the year, the Soviet threat to Poland and the Republican presidential victory sealed the fate of SALT II, which President-elect Reagan described as "fatally flawed". Since taking office, however, the Reagan administration has declared its support for the SALT