

# Foreword

In the late 1970's several members of the Senate who had been closely associated with the North Atlantic Parliamentary Association, notably the late Senator A.H. McDonald, developed the view that Parliament for quite some time had shown little interest in and support for Canada's Armed Forces and that unfortunately this attitude was becoming prevalent in the Canadian public. The Senate having among its members many former service persons from all three services seemed the indicated Chamber to undertake a review and assess of all aspects of our armed forces.

The Senate accepted the proposition and the Sub-committee was constituted in June 1980. It held its first hearing in October 1980. It began its work with a general review of the activities of the armed forces and then concentrated its attention on the manpower aspect, one of the most crucial issues now facing the Armed Forces. The Department of National Defence is also giving priority to manpower at the present time.

In attempting to develop findings about manpower, the Sub-committee had to survey the whole of the defence field. Realistic answers on manpower would not otherwise have been possible.

Parliament has not attempted a broad general survey of Canada's defence activities since 1972. This initial report constitutes an essential first step towards in-depth analysis of specific aspects of defence matters such as an examination of present materiel (inventories, acquisitions, planning, major items of equipment, the effects of technology, etc.), the condition of defence installations, budgets, the state of the commands, continental defence, the surveillance and control of the national territory, intelligence gathering and policy options for the future.

Using this report as a basis, the Sub-committee would wish to proceed in 1982 to other studies on defence questions. It hopes this report will serve as a frame of reference for other committees or groups working in the defence area. The views and analyses contained here should also serve as a basis in the formulation of the urgently requested new defence White Paper.