

NATO has to be revitalized. It has become secondary and commonplace in the thinking of many. Its cohesion and collective understanding must be enhanced. Changes need to be made in the economic field.

We have to endeavour to bring about economic arrangements within NATO that will ensure that the nations which stand for freedom will not by economic action weaken their neighbours and those associated with them in this responsibility.

NATO Triumvirate Opposed

There have been suggestions that we should set up a kind of triumvirate in NATO with Britain, the United States and France determining the course. Canada stands opposed to that, definitely and unequivocally.

We take our NATO commitments seriously. We do not intend to accept a secondary or subordinate position. We believe that the consultative machinery of NATO should be improved.

We believe that the nations within NATO should not take any course that will have the result of diminishing the strength or the purpose or the idealism of the organization as a whole.

Canada Pays Its Way

There has also been some suggestion recently that members may be asked to increase their contributions to NATO. I point out this fact for Canada - that we have at all times maintained our contribution to a degree not exceeded by any other nation.

We have paid a high insurance premium, and I see no reason why Canada should or could contribute more than she has this year and in years past.

We have maintained our strength in NATO. We have supplied air and ground troops. We have made a contribution on a per capita basis of which Canadians as a whole can be proud.

I believe, as I said, that some changes must be made. I think there should be a meeting of heads of government at the earliest possible date.

Strategic Policies Must be Reviewed

There should be a full and considered review of NATO purposes and policies. Indeed, in the last two or three weeks the U.S.S.R. and its satellites and associates have been meeting in Moscow. Our strategic policies must be revised and reviewed in the light of the decisions which come to us as having been made at the Communist conclave which is even now still in session.