

DEFENCE IN THE 70s

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pared to accept a conventional attack role for all three squadrons rather than two attack squadrons and one reconnaissance squadron.

NATO

It is proposed to continue with the regional reserve role in the central army group area for the "restructured" land force in Europe. An effective Canadian force in Europe, including both land and air operational components, base support, and the filling of a modest number of NATO international military staff positions, can be maintained with a total of 5,000 personnel in Europe, and Canadian forces will be maintained at this level. Maintenance of the force at this size and in this role does not itself give rise to any increase in the total force-structure or budget.

Canada intends to continue its battalion commitment to the ACE Mobile Force for employment on the northern flank of NATO, and to maintain, further, a commitment to send the balance of an "air-and-sea-transportable" combat group to the northern flank within 30 days in the event of an emergency. The Government is prepared to commit two squadrons of CF-5 aircraft based in Canada to ACE, one for the ACE Mobile Force (Air) in the north and the other in support of the combat group committed to the same region, thereby enhancing NATO's deterrent strength and the ability to carry out the accepted strategy of flexibility in response.

The national and North American defence roles of Canadian maritime forces are fully consistent with the maritime aspects of security requirements of NATO, and Canada will therefore continue to earmark ships, aircraft, and submarines for assignment to NATO in the event of an emergency. In time of peace, the collective maritime power of the alliance contributes to deterrence and thus to the security of each nation in the alliance, and hence Canada will continue to contribute ships to the multinational STANAVFORLANT⁽¹⁾ from time to time. Canada supports SACLANT's⁽²⁾ MARCONFORLANT⁽³⁾, which would be activated in times of increased tension.

PEACE-KEEPING

Canada has had a role in international peace-keeping since the Second World War. It is impossible to predict with any accuracy where a request for Canadian participation will next be made and to foresee the size and scope of any future operation. The Government reaffirms its support for the conception of peace-keeping, but there would be a need for realistic and workable terms of reference if future peacekeeping operations were to be undertaken. Finally, the Government will maintain a battalion on stand-by and continue appropriate training to ensure a capacity to respond quickly to any request for Canadian participation.

The forces will continue to carry out responsibilities for search and rescue, to provide assistance to civil authorities in the event of civil emergencies or disasters, including those resulting from oil-spills or other kinds of pollution, and to contribute in other ways to national development.

Defence expenditures will continue to be curtailed, as reflected in manpower cutbacks and constraints on equipment acquisition, but the defence budget could be increased to accommodate several specific projects.

Including this increase, the budget will remain within about 1 per cent of the present ceiling for 1972-73.

For 1973-74 and beyond, the defence budget will be established on the basis of program forecasts and estimates in accordance with the practice followed by other government departments.

The previously authorized forces' manpower level of 82,000 for the end of the fiscal year 1972-73 will be raised to some 83,000.

The paper also discusses briefly the principles to be applied in determining the organization and management of the Department of National Defence, the reserve forces, bilingualism in the forces, the Defence Research Board, and the future of the forces.

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- (1) Standing Naval Force Atlantic
 - (2) Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic
 - (3) Maritime Contingency Force Atlantic