



Bulletin

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CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND NATO

The following excerpts are from an address by the Prime Minister to the Alberta Liberal Association in Calgary, on April 12, 1969:

...What I want to do tonight is to talk to you about the background of these policy decisions [foreign policy, defence policy and NATO] and I think that they are very important and very far-reaching. They are far-reaching in terms of time and in terms of space. In terms of time because when you make a decision to reorient your foreign policy, it will last for quite a while. Our last reorientation lasted, I suppose, a generation. It is important in terms of space too. In Canada, the foreign policy we shall embark upon will concern every Canadian, rich or poor, easterner or westerner. It will concern our allies in all parts of the world, our friends, those who believe in the same principles as we do.

Our foreign policy, the one we are defining for Canada, is also very important for another reason. Our defence budget as you know is one-sixth of the total budget. That's a lot of money - \$1,800 million for defence. And it's a lot of money especially when you realize that it's accompanied by a great deal of uncertainty on the part of Canadians. There is a tendency in the past few years, when more money is needed for housing or more money is needed for anti-pollution schemes or more money is needed for social welfare legislation, for every form of expenditure in Canada - a project here, a research grant there - there is a tendency on the part of individuals, on the part of institutions and on the part of provincial governments, to say to the Federal Government: "Spend less on defence, you'll have more for this other worthwhile project", whether it

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be education or health or housing or urban growth. There is a tendency on the part of all Canadians to say "Take it away from defence, you will have more money for the worthwhile things" - implying, I suppose - and this comes as I say from many institutions and even from provincial governments - implying that the money we spend on defence is not well spent.

Now this may be so, and if it is so, it is important that we correct it. It is important that we realize that the sixth of our national budget which is spent on defence, is not an expenditure which is accepted as justifiable by a significant proportion of the Canadian people....

NEW HORIZONS

We promised during the last election to re-examine our foreign policy, because the data, because the objective situation, has changed, because the Canadian requirements have changed over the past generation. We're beginning to realize now that we're not a one-ocean country - not an Atlantic country, not even a two-ocean country, an Atlantic