

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Extracts from a Statement by the Honourable Paul T. Hellyer, P.C., M.P., Minister of National Defence, to the Opening Session of the Special Committee on Defence, Ottawa, June 27, 1963.

... Canada's defence policy is an extension of its foreign policy. In particular, we have been members of and closely identified with three international organizations which have made demands on our armed forces and made it possible for us to contribute to the maintenance of peace. These organizations are the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the North American Air Defence Command and the United Nations.

NATO

Canada was one of the original 12 (now 15) nations signatory to the North Atlantic Treaty in April 1949, and played a leading role in the formation of the alliance, the members of which are, in the words of the Treaty, "determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples ... (and) are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security". NATO continues to be an essential foundation of Canada's foreign and defence policies.

NATO was the response of the free countries of the West to Communist expansion in Europe after the Second World War, and to the impasse that arose in the United Nations when, by the use of its veto in the Security Council, the Soviet Union obstructed Western efforts to make that organization an effective instrument for peace. Faced with the threat to their security and to the basis of their civilization, the Western powers resolved to group themselves in an alliance that would indicate clearly their determination to resist aggression, from whatever quarter it might come, and to maintain peace.

In the years since its inception, NATO has built up in Europe a formidable military force. This force is composed of contributions from member nations. At the outset it was planned that a large army of 90-100 divisions should be built up. For a number of reasons, both political and economic, this goal has never been achieved and it is unlikely that it will be in the future. To redress the balance of power, a family of tactical nuclear weapons have been employed. The existence of these tends