

Being militarily prepared to discourage and, should deterrence fail, to repel aggression is essential to maintaining peace. It is equally important to seek to reduce or eliminate tensions which can threaten that peace. Hence the guiding principles of the Alliance have been deterrence, defence and détente.

In examining the strategic situation, as there is very little or no public scrutiny or discussion of government policies in the Warsaw Pact countries, Western analysts can only make educated guesses as to their possible intentions. However, in planning defensive measures, one has to look at their capabilities.

For example, the Soviet Union is believed by some experts to be spending between 11 and 13 percent of its Gross National Product for military purposes, versus around 6 percent for the United States. Canada spends only about 2 percent of its GNP for defence. In the last five years, the Soviet Union has moderately increased its standing armed forces to just under 3.8 million whereas U.S. forces have decreased to less than 2.1 million. Canadian regular forces have remained at around 80,000.

Money and manpower go further in the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact states than in Western countries, simply because the conditions of military service - pay, housing,

food, and the like - are of a much lower standard than in the West. In the Soviet Union, conscription is in force, whereas the United States, Britain and Canada have all-voluntary services in which pay and other benefits must be competitive with those in civilian life. Consequently, personnel costs make up a much higher proportion of military budgets in the NATO countries than those of the Warsaw Pact; the latter can put more money into armaments.

