

ments have recognized that the country's security remains linked to the security of both Europe and the United States — a view shared by other members of the alliance. Canada therefore supports the idea of collective defence. It is similarly convinced of NATO's important political role in the reduction and eventual removal of the underlying causes of potential East-West conflict through negotiation, reconciliation and settlement. In addition to Canada's participation in the collective security effort of the alliance, increasing attention has been devoted to consultations on East-West issues such as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the Vienna negotiations on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR).

#### Modern equipment

The Canadian Government is fully committed to the alliance, and, in spite of spending constraints, maintains a large capital expenditure program to obtain up-to-date equipment for the Canadian Forces. In 1978, with most other NATO partners, Canada signed agreements to acquire and operate the Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems. In addition, a new fighter plane is in the process of being selected and plans have progressed to acquire six new patrol frigates for the Canadian Forces. The first of the *Leopard I* main-battle tanks were delivered in 1978. The first of 18 CP-140 *Aurora* long-range patrol aircraft will arrive early in 1980.

Severe inflation and other economic problems continue to trouble alliance members. An adequate defence capability

must be maintained in spite of serious economic strains on some of the allies. Members of the alliance, including Canada, continue to avoid costly duplication of effort by increasing specialization in the development, production and acquisition of military equipment.

NATO membership is a key factor in Canada's development of political, economic and scientific-technological relations with Europe. The alliance has allowed — indeed, has obliged — both Canada and the United States to maintain a lively interest in European affairs. This exemplifies the interdependence of Europe and North America. It has also provided Canada with an opportunity to consult regularly with 14 other countries (including eight of the nine members of the European Community) on a variety of political and military questions.

Heads of state and government assembled in Washington on May 30 and May 31, 1978 to participate in the North Atlantic Council meeting. The fresh study of long-term trends in East-West relations, decided upon a year earlier in London, confirmed the validity of alliance aims — to maintain security and pursue *détente*. NATO leaders endorsed the objectives of the Long-Term Defence Program put forward by their defence ministers and noted with satisfaction improvements in NATO's defence preparedness through modernization programs and co-ordinated defence planning.

NATO leaders agreed that the provision of defence equipment required close co-operation in defence production and welcomed steps taken since the London meeting to intensify the transatlantic dialogue on production-sharing.

#### NATO military chief a Canadian

The Defence Planning Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting in Brussels in May, appointed Admiral Robert H. Falls the new chairman of the NATO Military Committee (NAMILCOM) the first Canadian to hold the position.



*Admiral Robert Falls will be the first Canadian to be NATO's top military man.*

“The selection of the chief of Canada's defence forces for the top military position in NATO reflects the high regard held by our allies for the professional performance of our Canadian Armed Forces who have served NATO so well for 30 years,” commented former Defence Minister Barney Danson.

Admiral Falls will assume the two-year appointment in Brussels in the summer of 1980. He will replace Norwegian General Zeiner Gunderson.

The NATO Military Committee, the senior military authority within NATO, is composed of the chiefs of defence staff of each member nation providing forces for NATO's military structure. It meets two or three times a year with the chiefs of defence and weekly with their national military representatives.

Admiral Falls, a native of Welland, Ontario, has been the senior military man in Canada since September 1977 after having served as vice-chief for three years. A veteran of 37 years service, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942 and trained as a pilot.

Later he transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy and served in many naval flying and sea command appointments, including a tour as commanding officer of the Canadian aircraft carrier HMCS *Bonaventure*.

#### Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)

The United States and the Soviet Union have sought an agreement to curtail the strategic nuclear-arms race and begin the process of reducing nuclear arsenals for nearly ten years. In 1972, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. signed initial agreements on the limitation of strategic nuclear arms (SALT I). In 1974 at Vladivostok they reached an understanding on the outlines of a further and more definitive agreement (SALT II). New proposals were put forward by the United States in 1977 and 1978, and it was announced in Washington on May 9, 1979 that agreement in principle had been reached on all outstanding substantive issues. It is expected that the SALT II treaty will be signed in Vienna on June 15, 1979.

The most pressing arms-control objective is agreement on the limiting of strategic nuclear weapons. It is vital to East-West relations and to world peace and security that the two superpowers have agreed to restricting the further growth and refinement of strategic nuclear arms. This will preserve and enhance the stability of the strategic balance and thereby reduce the risk of war.

Canada, both in NATO and through bilateral channels, strongly supports agreement on measures that would help to halt and eventually reverse the nuclear arms race.