

battalion group, say, of infantry or paratroops and related units. At a minimum, Canada might provide groups of inspectors to verify a new arms control regime.

Another way of performing this task would be to leave part or all of the air wing -- First Canadian Air Division -- in Europe, either together with Canadian ground forces or else as the main Canadian military presence across the Atlantic. The squadrons there now -- equipped with modern *CF-18* fighters -- certainly make a valuable contribution to NATO defences; and their continued availability in Europe is appealing to European political and military leaders for that reason. As a secondary task, the *CF-18s* in Europe could also train for any new collective security operations like the Persian Gulf action.

Canada's objective in keeping forces in Europe would be to contribute to international stability; to maintain a "seat at the table" and a voice in European and Atlantic security affairs; to continue to help "multilateralize" the North American contribution to NATO; and to keep "a foot in the door" in Western Europe. This last goal might be especially valuable in the coming period: it would help to maintain a privileged relationship with the West European countries on security questions that could spill over into dealings with them in other critical areas such as trade, and scientific and technical exchanges.

Other existing Canadian commitments to NATO for the defence of Europe or the North Atlantic are the responsibility of forces stationed in Canada, and include the present Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force contingent as well as the provision of augmentation, reinforcement and mobilization capabilities for crisis periods or wartime. Canada-based naval and air forces assigned to such duties as anti-submarine warfare and convoy protection also play a vital role in allied defence efforts. In addition, the provision of training facilities in Canada for German, British, Netherlands and other allied forces is a valuable contribution to NATO.

The recent war in the Persian Gulf demonstrated that Canada's overseas security interests extend far beyond Europe. In support of collective military action, Canada