

was little opposition to Mr. Claxton's opinion that such a move was in the defence of Canada. In describing party attitudes during the first few years B.S. Keirstead stated that "the CCF emphatically, the Conservatives with reservation...and the Liberals...were all agreed that NATO defence needs in the short-run must be measured against the long-run needs of the European powers to re-establish viable economies."⁶ Although the Conservatives offered some criticism to the effect that Canadian defence at home should not be weakened at the expense of Europe, this line of criticism was not pushed too far since general agreement did not exist within the party. In fact Howard Green had earlier criticised the government for being indecisive about raising forces for NATO in Europe.⁷ Thus for the first three years of NATO, until the Lisbon Conference of 1952, there was almost a bi-partisan approach to NATO policy for all major parties.

After Lisbon, the CCF became increasingly apprehensive about the military emphasis being placed on NATO which they considered detrimental to the social and economic aspects of the treaty. A party press release (March 4, 1952) at the 12th National Convention read as follows:

While continuing to support Canada's participation in NATO, the CCF is opposed to certain recent developments in this organization. NATO policies seem to have fallen completely under the control of the military to the exclusion of necessary social and economic considerations in the building of western collective security.

But while CCF members were disenchanted with the military aspects of NATO, the Conservatives were concentrating on "the uneconomic use of resources and the inadequacy of the total effort."⁸ The Liberals were left in the middle maintaining commitments had been fulfilled, but there would be no increase in the number of troops in Europe.⁹

There were two other military issues that arose during the early years of NATO. The first was a general debate in 1955 over the European Defence Community and German re-armament. The Liberals and the Conservatives supported the inclusion of Germany in NATO once France had defeated the EDC, but prior to this the Conservatives had pressed the government for increased assistance to France so that the EDC would be signed.¹⁰ The CCF, on the other hand, split over the German question partly as a result of party policy as expressed outside the parliamentary party.¹¹

The second development, and the one which was to have far-reaching effects in terms of domestic politics, was the increased emphasis being placed on tactical nuclear weapons. Neither the Liberals, nor the CCF, were particularly enthusiastic about the adopted nuclear strategy, while the Conservatives seem to have accepted it without many misgivings. But, on the whole, this question was not of great concern to any of the political parties.¹² The Liberal party, however, gave