

West might be tempted to launch prematurely its forces of retaliation.

To ensure the continued strength of the shield it is mandatory that we on this continent contribute forces to that shield. The presence of Canadian and American forces in Europe not only adds to the effectiveness of the shield, but also illustrates to our European partners the importance we attach to the defence of their territories. It is an indication that we do not intend to rely solely upon the nuclear retaliatory capacity of the sword.

To help meet the continuing needs of our allies, we in Canada make what is for us another fairly substantial contribution through our programme of Mutual Aid.

I would like to emphasize that Canada is not a recipient under this programme. On the contrary, we have contributed, since the inception of NATO, assistance in excess of one billion dollars. True, the contribution we have made - and are continuing to make - may not be large when compared to your own extremely generous programme - I believe you call it Mutual Defense Assistance - but we feel that it has been of some significance in the build-up of the strength of the alliance.

The increased complexity and cost of modern weapons makes it more necessary than ever before that duplication of research and production be avoided. Already some progress has been made in the standardization of arms.

At the NATO Defence Ministers' Conference, a resolution was adopted favouring closer collaboration between any group of nations in NATO, such as the Western European Union, in defence research development and production. Much remains to be done but if we are to have an efficient defence within our economic limits, such joint efforts must increase in the days ahead.

As long as NATO remains strong and is resolved to make use of all weapons - both conventional and nuclear - in the face of aggression there would appear little chance of an attack against the NATO area. The success of NATO is indicated not only by Russia's insistence on its disbandment, but also by the fact that she has had to turn elsewhere to try to extend her influence. This was recognized at the NATO meeting in Paris. While the organization is a regional defence alliance, we realize that the threat of aggression, political and economic infiltration or exploitation by the Communists in any part of the world is a threat to all of us. Therefore, other regional defence alliances such as SEATO and the Baghdad Pact play an important military role. And, in the