

CANADA AND THE FRG: PARTNERS FOR PEACE

The close political, economic and social ties between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany are reflected in the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries in the vital area of defence. Over a period of four decades, this relationship has steadily expanded both within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and at the level of bilateral defence relations. Today, thousands of German and Canadian armed forces personnel are rotated regularly between the two countries for training or active service assignments. Defence industrial cooperation (\$1.3 billion over 25 years) between Canada and the FRG is also expanding, a development which yet again demonstrates the positive relationship which has been established at all levels between the two countries -- within the Alliance and bilaterally.

As a consequence of Canada's recognition that maintenance of a free and secure Western Europe is essential for preserving Canadian security, Canada has continued to station combat-ready land and air forces in the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Canada's NATO commitments. The principal land force component of this Canadian contribution to our common defence is the 4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (4 CMGB) based at Lahr and Baden-Soellingen, which is complemented by an air component in the form of the 1st Canadian Air Group (1 CAG) based at Baden-Soellingen.

In all, the Canadian Forces community in the FRG includes approximately 7,500 military personnel and approximately 12,500 civilian employees and dependents.

In its 1987 White Paper on Defence, the Government of Canada announced its intention to consolidate its European defence contributions in Central Europe. As a result, the Canadian Forces contingent in the Federal Republic of Germany will be modernized and expanded. In the summer of 1988, the Canadian Air Division in the FRG will be formed, an entity which will ultimately include two rapid reinforcement squadrons of CF-18 aircraft based in Canada but committed to reinforce Canadian units in the FRG in time of crisis. Canada's land forces in the FRG will also be augmented, with an additional Canada-based brigade being tasked to reinforce troops in Germany. By late 1989 the Canadian base in Lahr will have sufficient infrastructure to accommodate an army division when required. Meanwhile, negotiations are under way between the Canadian and German governments to ensure the concomitant expansion of logistical support facilities.