

## Defence Relations

peacekeeping contributions, amounting to \$6,165,000 in 1975 for the peacekeeping forces in Cyprus and the Middle East; and (c) voluntary donations to the activities of a variety of multilateral economic, social and humanitarian programs, to a total of \$33,086,000. In 1975 these included such diverse programs as the UN Development Program, UNICEF and the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Canada's generous contributions and tradition of prompt payment are an accurate indication of its firm support for the UN family of organizations.

### NATO

Canada was one of the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. Over the years, successive Canadian Governments have reaffirmed the conviction that Canada's security remains linked to that of Europe — probably still the most sensitive point in the East-West balance of power. A firm adherent to the conception of collective security, Canada remains convinced of the important political role NATO plays in reducing and removing the underlying causes of potential East-West conflict through negotiation, reconciliation and settlement. These views were developed in some detail in 1970 in *Foreign Policy for Canadians* and in the 1971 White Paper on defence.

In May 1975, Canada's commitment to NATO was further strengthened when the Prime Minister visited Brussels to participate in a NATO heads-of-government summit meeting. He restated Canada's belief in the idea of collective security and its support for NATO, and pledged the maintenance of an adequate and effective NATO force level. He also called for more frequent political consultations between NATO heads of government.

During the December meeting of NATO defence ministers, the Canadian Minister of National Defence gave concrete form to Mr. Trudeau's pledge by announcing that, in the wake of an extensive defence structure review, the Government proposed to improve the effectiveness of the Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group stationed in Europe by increasing its tank component to three squadrons of modern, effective main-battle tanks and additional artillery. He also announced that Canada would purchase a fleet of 18 long-range patrol aircraft to replace the now-obsolete *Argus* fleet, and would make further improvements in the Canadian forces. Most significant, perhaps, and counter to the general NATO trend, the Government announced a considerable increase in real terms of the Canadian defence budget for the next five years, with specific emphasis on capital acquisitions. The NATO defence ministers, in their communiqué, commended the Canadian announcements, which reinforced the high priority of Canada's NATO commitment.

An important step in the long and arduous process towards *détente* was achieved in Helsinki on August 1, with the signing of the