

continue its efforts to promote détente and agreed that each member should play its full part in improving East-West relations to achieve a just and stable European order and to foster European security. Ministers directed the permanent delegations to intensify their work on balanced force reductions and reaffirmed the readiness of their governments to explore specific and practical steps in the sphere of arms control.

The efforts of the alliance to promote détente suffered a severe setback as a result of Soviet armed intervention in Czechoslovakia in August and NATO ministers advanced their normal December meeting to November to consider the resulting situation and to reassess the state of NATO's defences. The Canadian delegation joined with its allies in denouncing the Soviet use of force and emphasized that all peoples must be free to shape their future without outside interference. At the same time, ministers reaffirmed their intention to work towards the promotion of secure, peaceful and mutually beneficial relations between East and West, while maintaining adequate military strength and political solidarity. While agreeing that the prospects for mutually balanced force reductions had worsened as a result of Soviet actions in Czechoslovakia, ministers recommended that the study of such measures should continue in preparation for a time when the atmosphere for fruitful discussions might be more favourable.

Other international defence commitments for which the Department of External Affairs has a continuing responsibility include Canadian participation in United Nations peacekeeping and peace-observation missions and the provision of military assistance to certain developing countries. Canada continued its support of the United Nations (Peacekeeping) Force in Cyprus through provision of a contingent for the Force. The strength of the Canadian contingent was 595 military personnel in December 1968, having been reduced by nearly one-third in October as part of an overall reduction of the Force. The reduction was made possible by improving conditions on the island and affected all national contingents. In July a Canadian, Brigadier-General Leslie, took over the duties of Chief of Staff of the UN Force. Canada also continued to provide military observers for the UN Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East and military observers and an air crew for the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.

Under its programmes of military assistance, which have been undertaken during the present decade in response to requests from certain developing countries, Canada continued in 1968 to maintain Canadian Armed Forces advisory and training teams in Ghana and Tanzania and to provide the services of a senior air adviser to the Chief of Air Staff of the Royal Malaysian Air Force. In addition, some 135 members of the armed forces of a number of countries of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean received training in Canada during the year. This latter training included in 1968 for the first time attendance at Canadian Forces staff training establishments of members of the armed forces of countries to which Canada provided military assistance. As these military assistance programmes for developing countries, which are complementary to the much larger Canadian foreign aid programmes in the economic field, are undertaken for primarily foreign policy reasons, the Department of External