

command authority over designated forces is progressively transferred to the Major NATO Commanders (MNC's). In peacetime the MNC's are responsible for developing defence plans for their respective areas, have their own planning staffs and structures, and are represented on the appropriate NATO civilian and military bodies noted above. It should be noted that defence planning for the North American region is the sole responsibility of the Canada/USA Regional Planning Group.

Additionally, there are several specialized civilian and military agencies and bodies of varying composition charged with co-ordinating Alliance activities in their particular areas.

Lastly, there are a number of associations and NGO's linked to NATO, most notably the Eurogroup, an informal association of European Defence Ministers working to foster closer European co-operation within the Alliance, the North Atlantic Assembly, the inter-parliamentary organization of member countries, and the Atlantic Treaty Association, composed of privately organized, national voluntary associations such as the Atlantic Council of Canada.

III. Principal Activities of NATO

A detailed review of all the activities of NATO and its subsidiary bodies is beyond the scope of this paper, but from the point of view of the concerns preoccupying the attention of the Canadian Delegation, the following general activities are probably the most important.

- Political/Economic Consultations The Council and its subsidiary political and economic bodies are mandated to consult, and where appropriate develop an Alliance consensus, on any and all developments which are of common NATO interest. Allies inform each other of their policies and the underlying considerations giving rise to such policies, and exchange views, with the objective that such information and views will be taken into account by individual member nations in the formulation of final national policies. The Council is the principal forum for such discussions and meets at least weekly (usually Wednesdays) for formal consultations. It also meets informally, either at weekly luncheons or at private meetings (convened by the Secretary General to facilitate exchanges on difficult or particularly sensitive issues). The substantive groundwork for its discussions is carried out primarily by the Political and Economic Committees, composed of Political and Economic