

counter-measures vessels, the *Sea King* replacements, the eighteen *Aurora* LRPAs, and the three *Arcturus*.

The greatest question facing Canadian governments today, in this field, is whether a "deep-ocean" navy will still be needed in the coming years. Will there still be a requirement for ASW operations in the North West Atlantic or for convoy protection and similar shipping support far out into the mid-Atlantic? The answer depends largely on expectations about the future of East-West relations -- whether the Soviet Union will continue to maintain a capability for submarine action in the Western or mid-Atlantic, and whether NATO will remain in being as a military structure requiring a capacity for sea-borne reinforcement of Europe from North America. And will the United States, for its own protection, require that someone -- the US Navy if not the Canadian fleet -- patrol the seas off Canada? All seem reasonable expectations for the time being, since Soviet military capabilities still remain very high at present and no one can say with certainty that a new world of close cooperation and lasting amity will soon replace the confrontation of the past.

Another major issue to consider is the question of further naval operations similar to those in the Persian Gulf. These may indeed occur, but Canada is likely to use ships designed mainly for other purposes -- such as ASW patrols -- rather than building up a specialized naval intervention force. Naval power is flexible, and can be deployed for a range of purposes as new challenges arise and as world conditions change. Ships such as the *Tribal* class and the new *Halifax* class already have some self-defence anti-air protection, for example. There is no need for Canada to develop specialized fleets dedicated to the United Nations or other multilateral bodies likely to be engaged in peacekeeping, maintaining international order, or other far-flung duties of one kind or another.

One likely possibility for the development of the Canadian fleet over the next twenty years is that the present plans for frigates and mine countermeasures vessels will be completed, and then attention will turn increasingly to fast coastal patrol boats, other