

- Europe will remain Canada's first line of defence. Canada will therefore continue to have a major interest in the multilateral negotiations which can lead to a broad security regime for Europe.

The analysis begins with a look at Canadian policy.

CANADIAN POLICY

Conventional arms control and disarmament in Europe has been a priority of Canadian policy throughout the 1980s. In recent years, the formulation has been "the building of confidence sufficient to facilitate the reduction of conventional military forces in Europe and elsewhere."⁴ Some years ago, it was: "we will participate actively in negotiations to limit and reduce conventional forces".⁵ The subject received priority in the 1970s particularly in the period leading up to the beginning of MBFR. The 1970 White Paper on foreign policy stated that Canada would seek "to promote realistic proposals for mutual and balanced force reductions in Europe."⁶ Much earlier, the reduction of conventional forces figured in five "guiding principles" of Canadian policy set out at the UN Disarmament Commission in July 1956.⁷

Thirty years ago, deliberations by UN bodies were about arms control and disarmament as a whole. Canada and other countries considered nuclear and conventional forces together. It was later acknowledged that negotiations on the two types of weaponry could best be pursued separately. However, Canada has consistently recognized the

⁴ The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, "Notes for an Address before the North Atlantic Assembly," Office of the Prime Minister, Ottawa, 23 May 1987, p. 4.

⁵ The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, "A Security Imperative for the Eighties," Department of External Affairs, Statements and Speeches no. 80/16, Ottawa, 13 June 1980, p. 4.

⁶ Foreign Policy for Canadians, Europe, Ottawa, 1970, p. 25.

⁷ Cited in Grant R. Davy, Canada's Role in the Disarmament Negotiations 1946-57. Thesis presented at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Boston, 15 April 1962, pp. 368-369.