

NATO and Canada: A Question of Priority

By BEV YEADON

In this society of LSD, student poverty, and Vietnam few students think of such trivial institutions as NATO and Canada's military forces. Friday and Saturday the Canadian Institute of International Affairs brought to Dal a formidable army of experts on this very subject.

Heading the leftist forces were Prof. Eayrs, a political scientist from U. of T. and Dalton Camp. On the right stood John Gellner, a highly informed military expert from the Globe and Mail. Other speakers were Vice-Admiral J.C. O'Brien, Rear-Admiral M. Bayne from the U.S. NATO field, and Dr. Wheeler, a military historian from the U.S. Also attending, but not as official speakers, were General Foulkes, a retired Canadian army officer, Rear-Admiral D. Piers, Ret., Prof. Aitchison Dalhousie Political Science, Prof. Alan Andrews (Dal Theatre), Rear Admiral Pullen, Ret., Rear Adm. Landymore, Ret., and many others who mainly listened, subdued by a cloud of penetrating debate.

Only two points were generally agreed upon: First, that NATO should be changed in some way and second, that Canada's NATO forces in Europe were negligible. From there, the discussion went in about thirteen different directions.

The priorities of Canadian policy were essentially what was taken to task. The anti-NATO men believe that the socio-economic problems of the world are far more important than an almost non-existent defence against a maybe enemy.

James Eayrs would cut out NATO altogether, believing it to be a barrier to an easing of European tensions. He would virtually eliminate Canada's military forces and channel the money into foreign aid. Since the U.S. holds the deterrent, he believes the best defence against nuclear war is no defence at all.

"To perfect the defence is to destabilize the system," are his own words. He did not suggest what Canada should do in case of a limited war.

Dalton Camp, agreed with Jim Eayrs in everything but the conclusion. True to a politician's style, his speech was deliberately vague and uncommittal. But behind the scenes he was open and specific. He would cut Canada's military forces to 75,000 men with an annual budget of 1 billion dollars. The bulk of saving would go to Canada's economy. Canada, since she is already a member of NATO, would re-

main so, but only in a limited capacity. Since Stanfield fully supports NATO, Camp is, in his own words, "a radical in my own party," sticking his neck out again.

Prof. Andrews pointed out another approach to the problem. He believes that closing the "white have-black have-nots" economic gap is so vitally important for mankind's survival that he would be willing to risk war. And so, he would tilt the budget balance in favor of foreign aid.

John Gellner saw the threat of Russian communism as a major Canadian priority. NATO, in his opinion, is an absolute necessity against the advance of the Iron Curtain. Arguing that a nuclear deterrent was not enough, he pointed to Russia's game of snatching off a piece of Europe and calling the western bluff of nuclear retaliation.

THE MILITARY VIEWPOINT:

The military officers generally assumed that Canadian military power is a necessity. Unfortunately, their hands were tied by the presence of the press; and so they could not make any rash statements or use classified data to back up their opinions. Some, including Rear Adm. Landymore, Ret., remained completely mute for this very reason. Admiral Bayne, USN, gave no opinions, but gave a lecture on the facts of Russian sea power.

General Foulkes, Ret. was an exception. Speaker after speaker was shot down by his barrage of facts and logic. In general, he supported the existence of NATO and welcomed a renewal of strategy. He pointed out that those who advocated the abolition of NATO are obligated to present a plan for the defence of Europe and the Atlantic.

J.C. O'BRIEN

Rear Adm. J.C. O'Brien was the last official speaker. His talk, altered completely from his original text, was angrily subdued. He spoke of Canada as a prisoner of history, geography and her own habit and this obligates Canada to maintain a strong Navy.

Offstage he was much less subdued. He saw Canada's important priority as Canada itself. Canada's No. 1 enemy, he believes, is the U.S. With the abolition of Canadian military forces, Canada would have to depend completely on the U.S. and would eventually lose her identity.

To preserve Canada's identity most effectively, he would wipe out Canada's inconsequential army forces in Europe and channel the resources into a

larger, more effective Navy. Canada has the resources to maintain a sizable Navy which would hold a very significant place in the Atlantic community. In this way, Canada would hold a small but individual place in world politics and maintain a Canadian identity and thereby preserve all the good Canadian qualities we read about.

He outlined his \$1.5 billion "shopping list" for the next ten years. New sea equipment would include 8 nuclear subs, 2 "big hulls" for aircraft anti-submarine work, jet aircraft, and expansion of Canada's present small ship fleet. He pointed out that if Canada doesn't spend some money on new equipment soon, in ten years there won't be any Canadian Navy. He also said if the government continues to slice off pieces of its Navy as it has done in the past ten years, he would get out. He prefers to have nothing to do with a Navy without any ships and aircraft.

GENERAL FOULKES

He was perhaps the most impressive individual of the conference. He himself was not an official speaker but he shot down speaker after speaker. He knew NATO, having helped form it twenty years ago. He knew the facts.

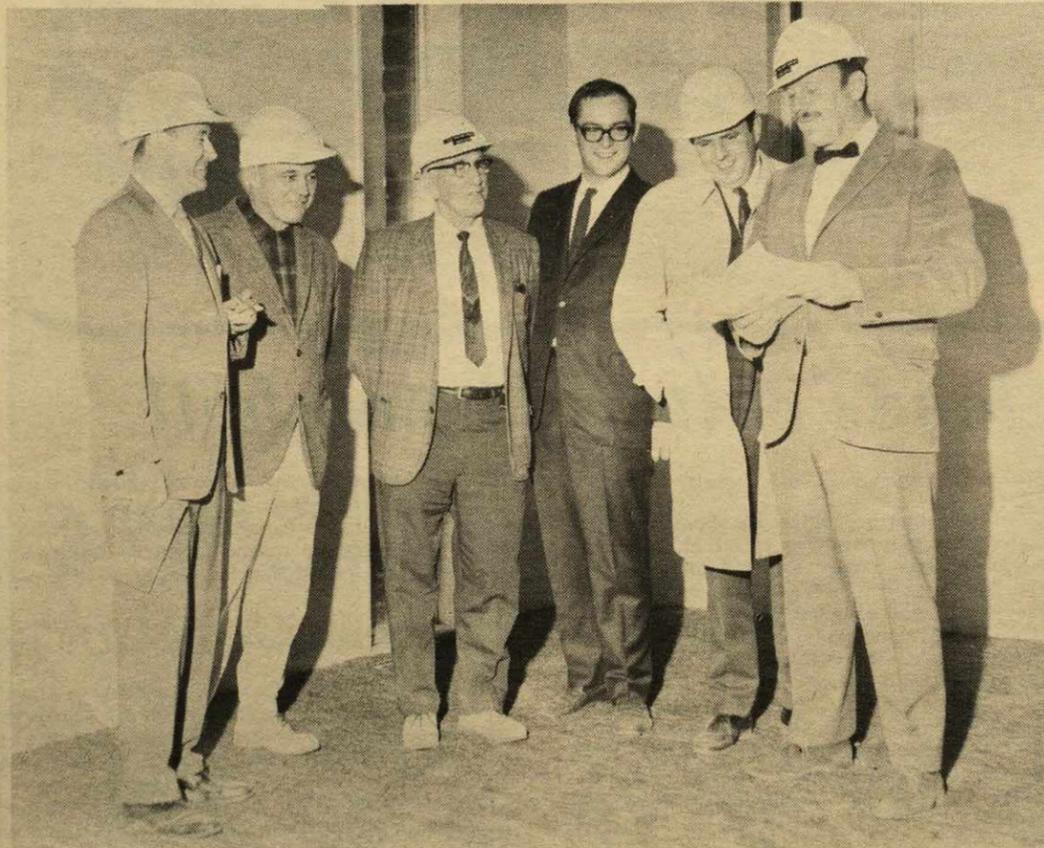
His most significant point was in response to the allegation that NATO strategy was absurd, especially concerning the use of tactical nuclear weapons. He pointed out that the original NATO strategy had called for 50 divisions to protect Europe, but when the member nations provided only 17 (including Canada's 1/3), tactical nuclear weapons had to fill the gap.

He also staged the biggest putdown of the conference. Dalton Camp had talked of Canada's commitments to NORAD and how we were handcuffed by them. Foulkes then proceeded to tear Camp apart by suggesting that someone who had not even read the NORAD treaty should not pretend to be an authority on it. NORAD, he said, committed Canada in no way, since NORAD was only a command system agreement. When Camp complained that the NORAD agreement was not available for civilians, General Foulkes gave him an exact reference in general publication.

In general, on the stand of the necessity of NATO, he supported its existence, and welcomed a renewal of strategy. He pointed out that those who wanted NATO eliminated should suggest a better solution to the problem of European defence.

CONGRATULATIONS

Here are a few representatives of the Contractor, Architect, and Student Administration.



L-R: John Graham, Student Administrator, Earl MacNaughton, Project Superintendent MacDonald Construction, Harry Nolan, Inspector of Works, C.D. Davison, John Young, Student Council Representative, Ralph MacInnis, Project Manager, MacDonald Construction, J. K. Large, Project Architect, C.D. Davison.

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of the S.U.B.
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