Canada and NATO

In April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed
in Washington, giving birth to the Atlantic Alliance —
a unique association of 15 countries that became
known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
(NATO). Canada played a leading role in the formation
of NATO, which was designed primarily to ensure the
preservation of peace and the security of its members
through a collective approach to defence. Despite a
variety of crises since then, such as Berlin, Hungary,
Cuba and Czechoslovakia, and the persistence of
local wars in other parts of the world, peace has pre-
vailed in the NATO area for more than a quarter-
century. This success has assisted its members in
attaining a high degree of prosperity and well-being.

*The NATO and Canadian flags
fly outside the NATO head-
quarters in Brussels.*
NATO Photo