

international objectives. In the near term, this report hopefully will contribute to a national debate on defence and security issues, particularly those issues directly related to Canada's maritime interests.

The necessary national consensus can only be built if the Canadian public is involved in the process. In view of the importance of defence spending in relation to government expenditures — eight cents of every tax dollar — security policies can only be sustained if they meet the concerns of Canadians. In an era when the traditional threat is fading, any in-depth review of security policy would serve as a vehicle for increasing awareness of the many valuable roles carried out by the Forces at home and abroad. Public appreciation of those tasks and an understanding of their importance in a broader security framework would go a long way towards ensuring that Canada possess the necessary capabilities to meet future requirements. The Gulf Crisis and the resolution of the confrontation at Oka have highlighted the importance of the Canadian Forces.

All Committee Members share the belief that the government should undertake a major re-examination of Canadian security policy. A new review ought to be public, extensive, and culminate in the publication of policy recommendations by 1 January 1992. Therefore:

XVIII The Committee recommends that the government undertake a major public review of Canadian security policy in its broadest sense and that the review be completed by 1 January 1992.