

Outline of the Sub-committee's Work

During 1980-81, the Sub-committee held a series of hearings on the current activities of the Canadian Forces and then focussed on the manpower question. The Minister of National Defence appeared before it, as did a number of senior military officers, officials and defence experts. The Sub-committee also authorized a modest level of research effort to help provide depth to its enquiries.

The general review of Canadian Forces' operations was carried out in the autumn of 1980, when the Sub-committee heard presentations by the Honourable J. Gilles Lamontagne, Minister of National Defence; General R.M. Withers, Chief of the Defence Staff; and other senior officers and officials. These briefings dealt with the overall situation and activities of the Canadian Forces and their efforts to carry out current defence commitments with respect to NORAD, NATO, UN peacekeeping missions, sovereignty surveillance and control, aid to the civil power and national development. The Sub-committee felt that the information provided during these meetings was most valuable as a base for conducting further enquiries.

Hearings on the manpower question began with a presentation by Mr. Nicholas Stethem, Executive Director, Strategic Analysis Group, Toronto, who discussed: "Defence — the human factor; manpower in the 1980's". Subsequent meetings up to Easter included hearings with the following private witnesses: Brigadier General S.V. Radley-Walters (Ret.) on "Current Defence Problems and their Manpower Implications"; Professor Philippe Garigue, Principal of Glendon College, York University, on "Recruiting, Education and Training of Military Personnel"; and Major General R.H. Rohmer, former Chief of Reserves, on "The Forces' Manpower Requirements and the Role of the Reserves." Lieutenant General H.A. Carswell, the Assistant Deputy Minister Personnel, and his senior officers also came to give the following briefings: "The Composition of the Forces and Established Manpower Requirements"; "Current Manning — Problems in the 1980s"; "Recruiting, Education and Training of Military Personnel"; "The Reserve Forces"; and "Forces' Personnel Policies for the 1980s".