

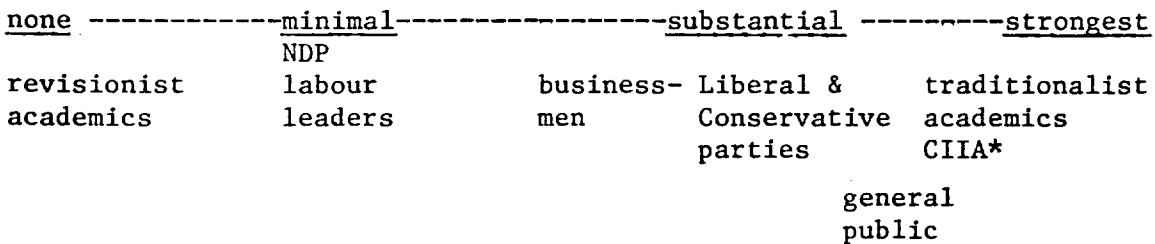
is enhanced. Most traditionalists would like to see foreign aid increased and the peacekeeping role continue, but this does not mean Canada has to withdraw from NATO to perform these functions.

NATO also contributes to the peaceful solution of conflict situations among the NATO members, and serves the important function of controlling any expansionist tendencies on the part of West Germany. The other part of the control function is that NATO helps to control proliferation of independent nuclear forces. In this respect it adds stability to both Eastern and Western Europe, as well as increasing the options in terms of conventional response in case of war. An added role for NATO is that it can serve as an agency for increasing East-West contacts and thereby help to further détente. The traditionalists argue these are essential functions, and if NATO were to be dismantled some other arrangement would have to take its place.

When the revisionists and the traditionalists are compared with other groups within Canada support for NATO can be ranged along a continuum. The two academic groups are at either extreme with the labour leaders and the NDP at the lower end, and the general public and the CIIA* showing the most support for NATO after the traditionalists. It should be noted, however, that there is a serious lack of statistical data and the following diagram can only be considered as a rough approximation.

Diagram No. 1 - Support Continuum for NATO by Groups and Parties within Canada, 1967. 46.

Support for NATO
by groups



The diagram suggests that the two largest political parties are not far out of touch with the general public, and as the conclusion to the section on parties indicated there seems to be a move toward some form of all-party consensus on the NATO question.

While this may well be true the diagram makes it clear that at the present time this consensus is by no means solidly based. The revisionists, part of the Labour movement, and segments of the NDP are in favour of withdrawal from NATO. Minority groups within both the Liberals and the Conservatives advocate complete withdrawal, and in all probability a segment of the general public feels the same way. The study of the Canadian Institute of

* Canadian Institute of International Affairs.