

inflexibility into some future crisis, or providing assurances which are so obscure and uncertain as to leave an area of confusion or a power vacuum in Central Europe. Finding answers for this critical problem of international security may be one of the major tasks of the Western allies in the coming period, and Canada should certainly play its full part in the search for sound responses.

A further issue of great importance to Canadian defence planners is the future of NATO itself. Since the events of 1989-90 -- which transformed the security situation in Europe and brought a united Germany into the Western Alliance -- NATO has had to face up to the problems of sudden success. For several months, there were widespread expectations that the organization would soon disappear or else be transformed into a new, much looser association. Now, the general attitude among allied governments appears to be more cautious, looking to a continuation of the present organization -- though with reduced forces and a revised military strategy -- for several more years at least.

A key role of NATO military forces in the coming period will be to reassure Germans and other Europeans about a continuing American and Canadian commitment to European defence and security. Integrated forces in Germany may consist of an array of land and air units stationed in the old territories of the Federal Republic. The numbers would probably not be large -- perhaps not more than 50,000 to 100,000 stationed forces in addition to the indigenous German divisions -- and the purpose would be to display continuing commitment as well as the capacity to deploy solid though limited military forces. These would be stability-guarantee forces rather than collective defence forces in the old mode, i.e. forces dedicated to balancing the East as much as possible with sheer military strength.

Canada will have an important role to play in such military arrangements if it wishes to do so -- for several years or possibly longer. The Canadian mechanized brigade group in Germany -- 4 CMBG -- might be integrated into a multinational division including German and other allied forces; or Canada's contribution might be cut to one