

factors that must be studied before firm decisions are made, hon. members can understand the difficulty I have in making this first report as full and specific as I would have wished. There are, of course, some broad aspects which I can announce at this time and as I have stated earlier, I will continue to make public, from time to time, further details as they become firm.

[English]

During the whole course of the defence review, and particularly following the government's decision to base defence forces on the four point program in the April 3 statement, we have conducted a careful analysis to determine the resources required, both material and human, to fill our defence needs and at the same time be consistent with national priorities and capabilities.

Although there are some detailed alternatives still to be decided, we have concluded that a regular force of 80,000 to 85,000 will be needed to meet Canada's defence requirements.

We propose to make the transition over a period of three years, and to reach the new manpower levels without instituting a plan of forced attrition for this purpose. We fully recognize that this will result in some temporary personnel imbalances within certain trades and specialties, but we are confident these can be overcome by making available opportunities for retraining.

Basic to our planning was a firm decision to concentrate, wherever possible, on reducing administrative and support activities, to provide us with a higher ratio of operational to non-operational forces than in the past. This includes a re-examination of our command and control activities with a view to reducing headquarters staff, including those here in Ottawa.

I would now like to describe in general terms the force structure we plan to establish by early 1973. Maritime Command will continue in the anti-submarine role, using most of the existing equipment. However, we are continuing plans for employing the new ships under construction and are considering a replacement aircraft for the Argus. At the same time, we are exploring the possibility of widening the roles open to maritime forces in response to the government's broad policy directive. In particular, we expect more emphasis will be placed on activities relating to Canadian sovereign interests in our adjacent waters, and the seabed. In this context

*Statement by Minister on Defence Needs*  
our Arctic territories take on particular significance.

Mobile Command will undergo some changes but will continue to maintain in Canada forces for a variety of roles related to the defence of Canada, aid to the civil power, co-operation with United States forces for the defence of North America, and collective security and peacekeeping abroad. This will mean more emphasis on light, quick-reaction, air-portable land force units designed to meet these roles. Mobile Command will continue to be organized in combat groups and the Canadian Airborne Regiment is being retained.

Air Defence Command will remain very much as it is for the immediate future. However, we are engaged in intensive study of Canada's roles in continental air defence, and related discussions are proceeding between Canadian and United States military and civilian officials. As for the longer term, it will be some time before decisions can be made on the post 1975 bomber defence system, including AWACS, over-the-horizon radars and new interceptors.

Air Transport Command's strategic airlift capability will depend primarily on our present fleet of Hercules transports. They will be augmented for shorter hauls by Buffalo aircraft, now in the inventory. Although our detailed analysis of strategic deployment requirements is not yet complete, we expect that some contraction in the size of our air transport force will be made through retirement of part of the Yukon fleet and of other older aircraft. On the other hand, we are continuing with our studies of the requirements for a long range pure-jet military transport aircraft.

Along with the reductions in the regular force, we are planning to reduce the reserve force. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, we will be consulting next month with the Conference of Defence Associations and will be exchanging with them ideas on how we might make the most effective use of our reserve force, as a back-up to the regular force in their new roles and missions.

Our cadet program has been most successful. Its benefits in character building and the promotion of good citizenship will, in the future, as in the past, make an important contribution to national development. We intend to continue to support a program involving about 100,000 cadets.

It will be obvious, Mr. Speaker, that reductions in over-all strength of the forces, and