

has grown strong and prosperous. To be sure, the military threat has not diminished in Europe or in North America. I said that to help meet this threat, and to help build the NATO shield behind which Western Europe could continue its postwar recovery, Canada alone gave over \$1 billion in mutual aid in the first ten years of NATO. Every European NATO country has benefited from our mutual aid program.

Referring to other Canadian contributions, I said that during the first ten critical years of NATO Canada contributed over \$413 million toward NATO aircrew-training, and this has now risen to over \$446 million. Our NATO military budget contributions total over \$46 million, and our infrastructure contributions have amounted to over \$181 million. All in all, our total Canadian defence contributions to the European NATO countries amount to well over \$2 billion, and this figure does not include the cost of maintaining our forces in Europe.

I said that we were proud of our contributions and did not begrudge them; but I reminded the Committee that, in addition to our contribution to NATO Europe, Canada also contributed heavily to the defence of North America, and particularly to the defence of the United States deterrent which protected us all.

I reminded the meeting that we had not decreased our defence budget but that, like many NATO partners, we had had to absorb inflationary costs, which had meant a reduction in manpower and an adjustment in our force levels.

I said that in our defence review we had to look at all of these facts, which formed a very complex equation. On the one hand, we have made substantial defence contributions of well over \$2 billion to NATO Europe over and above the cost of stationing our forces there, while at the same time contributing to the defence of NATO North America. On the other hand, there is a growing belief in Canada that Europe is in a much better position now to absorb more of the costs than it was ten or 15 years ago. At the same time, we know that there is a continuing threat to NATO North America.

I said that one solution, as we saw it, was to show our European partners that we did recognize the continuing threat to NATO Europe. It was for this reason that we should continue to maintain forces in Europe. But, I said, our European partners must recognize all of the factors I listed and accept the fact that there were two sides to the equation.

I concluded my remarks by saying this:

NATO is not Europe. NATO is not North America. NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — a group of nations banded together which are pledged to consider an attack against one or more of us in Europe or North America as an attack against all of us. We reaffirm that pledge.

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