

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Time has been distorted. The dramatically transformed relationship between the Warsaw Treaty Nations and the Soviet Union, as well as the revolutionary changes which have occurred in Eastern Europe in the past twenty months, have enhanced East-West relations such that it seems as though they have been fixed in place for many years. Most of the presumptions upon which Canada's defence and security policies have been based need to be re-evaluated.

In short, there is a requirement to re-assess our security needs, to redefine the risks and to be on the alert for new and different threats to Canadian interests.

To this end, the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs has undertaken this study on Maritime Sovereignty. During its investigation the Committee visited Canadian Forces Bases in Halifax and Shearwater, Nova Scotia and Esquimalt and Comox, British Columbia. All members were impressed by the degree of dedication, commitment and professionalism of our military personnel. We concluded that too few Canadians are aware of the enormous amount of good work undertaken each day by the Canadian Forces in protecting and ensuring Canada's security. Most citizens perceive our naval, air and land forces as being singularly committed to the task of training and equipping for a hot war; too few are aware of the important tasks they undertake daily in the protection of Canadian lives, laws and resources.

The Committee saw a great need for the Armed Forces to continue to carry out these para-military roles. It is a rare day when Canadian Forces on the East or West coast are not involved in a search and rescue effort. In 1989 the Canadian Forces were involved in 8,233 search and rescue operations, 6,611 marine incidents. In 1988, \$397 million worth of illegal drugs were seized as they were being smuggled into Canada, and it is estimated that this represents only about one-quarter of the illicit drugs entering the country annually. Our Forces must also be ready and able to protect Canadians from potential terrorist attacks. Most international terrorists have military training and commonly use military equipment. It is important to every citizen that we have a well-trained Navy with adequate surveillance and communications equipment. Combined with proper coordination among numerous government departments, crimes against Canada can be deterred.

While much of this study reflects upon the non-military roles of the Canadian Forces such as drug interdiction search and rescue, and protection against terrorism, ocean polluters, the illegal use of ocean resources and illegal immigration, the Committee firmly believes that the first principle for our forces must be to maintain a fighting capability to defend, either directly or with our allies and friends, against an armed aggressor.