

Paper and subsequent events raised several questions since the Government had committed itself to the maintenance of the existing NATO role (for the time being), and to unification of the Armed Services.

The decision to unify the Armed Forces became a partisan party issue. The Liberals maintained present commitments could be met with a unified defence force, the Conservatives had some major reservations, especially the Naval commitments; and the NDP took the position that with unification our present commitments could not be met and made no sense. All three parties are in agreement however, that NATO commitments should be changed even though the time period differs. The NDP want changes now, the Liberals in the near future, and the Conservatives would not object to changes sometime in the future if conditions permit. On the question of withdrawal of Canadian troops from Europe the NDP has advocated immediate withdrawal while, in general, the other two parties accept the present force level.

Despite disagreement over the present commitments all parties accept a Canadian role in NATO and seem to be moving in the same direction; that is, toward a new role shaped by the changing political and military situation in Europe, and, in case of the NDP, unification of the Armed Services. The role which would probably gain the greatest party consensus is that of a conventional mobile force capable of operating either on the flanks of NATO or in mobile reserve on the central front. The NDP would prefer a conventional mobile force kept in reserve in Canada. This type of force is definitely what Mobile Command is producing and if the present commitments are renegotiated, which seems to be the intention of the present Government, it is possible that even greater consensus may be achieved.

A word of caution, however, is probably in order. It is quite apparent that an outspoken minority, within all three parties, as well as an increasing number of academics and newspapers (Chapters III and IV) advocate complete withdrawal from NATO. If the re-negotiated role produces the kind of inter-party strife that existed over the nuclear weapons issue it is quite possible that the majority of Canadians will become so alienated over Canadian participation in NATO that complete withdrawal may become preferable.

III - Academics and Attitudes Toward NATO

The first point to be emphasized is that there are only a very limited number of scholars who have made Canadian foreign policy their main field of academic research. If this group is expanded to include those who have published in the field but whose main interest lies elsewhere the number is not any more than thirty. Several sets of factors have contributed to this situation.

The first set deals with the nature of the academic community. Until the recent expansion of the number of universities, as well as the size of departments, there have been few openings available to academics whose main interest is international politics. Furthermore, there are only a limited number of outlets which have been utilized for publishing