

command, but it ran into the problem of high inflation rates which largely destroyed the hope of extensive re-equipment. Some of the *CF-5s* acquired for peacekeeping and brush-fire wars went straight from the production lines into storage, as no immediate use could be found for them, and the hopes of acquiring specialized light equipment for mobile brigades in Canada were largely abandoned, eventually, owing to costs.

The 1971 White Paper was widely perceived as shifting Canada's traditional order of defence priorities and putting protection of national sovereignty and the defence of North America ahead of contributions to NATO and peacekeeping. This seemed to be in line with the new foreign policy of the early Trudeau period, which focussed on direct national interests and trade, at the expense of multilateralism and international mediation. The White Paper also envisaged light, mobile forces equipped with a "light, tracked direct-fire-support vehicle" that could be used in tactical reconnaissance missions in Europe or a wide range of similar tasks elsewhere.

Nonetheless, Canadian forces remained committed to NATO and their equipment was mainly dedicated to this role. Funds were never made available to perform such specialized national sovereignty roles as off-shore patrolling, and all that happened in the next few years to the armed forces was that they became smaller, worse equipped, and less able -- from an equipment point of view -- to perform their many and varied tasks. National defence sank lower in the government order of priorities, and it was not until 1975, when a defence structure review showed that the system was near breaking point, that the government changed direction and began a belated effort to re-equip the armed forces. A programme of increasing resources and building up the armed forces proceeded during the following decade.

The 1987 White Paper was well-intentioned in that it aimed at matching resources to commitments. Canada's promise to send a brigade group to northern Norway in a crisis was slated to be dropped, and the Army was focussed on providing ready forces and reinforcements for the Central Front in Germany. A major build-up in personnel numbers and equipment levels was planned. However, the rhetoric and rationale of the paper