

The Other Side of NATO: Non-Military Co-operation

Over the years, NATO has developed a series of programs to stimulate co-operation among its members on issues of common interest. All of them draw their inspiration from the "Canadian Article" on Non-Military Co-operation in NATO (Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty). The 1956 "Report of the Three Wise Men on non-military co-operation in NATO" concluded that NATO needed to demonstrate that it is more than a military alliance and to give further expression to the "Canadian Article." The "Wise Men" (one of whom was the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson) concluded that NATO should undertake activities "to strengthen allied cohesiveness by reinforcing a sense of common interest and shared values."

"The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them."

— Article 2, The North Atlantic Treaty, April 1949

As a result, the NATO Science Committee was established in 1958 to promote non-military scientific co-operation within NATO and provide advice to the North Atlantic Council on questions of science and technology. The NATO Science Program aims for the enhancement of the scientific and technical capabilities of the Alliance by fostering co-operation and information exchanges between scientists of member countries and by promoting actions to help close gaps in the scientific knowledge and research capabilities of member nations. Specifically the program includes a fellowship program, research

grants, and the sponsoring of different symposia. More recently, the Science Committee's "Science for Stability" program was initiated to help promote the development of the science and technology infrastructures of Greece, Portugal and Turkey.

As a further mechanism for non-military co-operation in NATO the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) was established in 1969. The mandate of CCMS is to improve in every practical way, the exchange of views and experience within the Alliance on methods of creating a better environment for Allied societies. Specifically, CCMS is called upon to consider the problem of environment in its broadest terms (including socio-economic processes) with the objective of stimulating action by member governments. Under the auspices of CCMS, governments propose pilot studies on specific subjects which other governments may join, or not, in accordance with their own priorities. As a result of the "environmental revolution" of the early 1970s much of the work of the Committee has been environmental in orientation.

Why Canada is a Member of NATO

"For Canada, [the quest for peace and stability] continues to be best pursued through co-operation with our allies. This is a recognition of our common history, our shared interests and our community of values. This unity of purpose is the very foundation of our Alliance, as important to our security as the concrete efforts we undertake to keep the peace."

— Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, "Challenge and Commitment: A Defence Policy for Canada", June 1987

Canada is a member of NATO because we believe our democratic traditions and values are worth preserving and protecting. Collective defence is the most effective and efficient way of doing this. That is why successive Canadian governments have continued to place major

Geographic Distribution of
NATO Member States