



# Bulletin

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## NATO IN CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE

*The following passages are from an address by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs conference at the University of Calgary on March 1:*

...Regardless of any review, the whole thrust of Canada's foreign policy is directed toward the twin objectives of world order and world prosperity. This means that, for its own self-interest and its own self-respect, Canada must make its proper contribution to the maintenance of world peace and the raising of the world standard of living. These are political objectives and are pursued in the United Nations and NATO, by means of other groupings such as the Commonwealth and the newly-founded *Francophonie*, and bilaterally with the nations of the world....

The purpose of the current review of foreign and defence policy is not to question whether Canada should be engaged in political activity, keeping the peace and foreign aid. And it is not to question the value of NATO as such, for NATO is going to continue for some time to come with the support of its European members and the United States, no matter what we do.

The review of our foreign and defence policies is designed to find out if we are serving our own interests best and making our most effective contribution to world order and world prosperity under our present arrangements. If not, these arrangements will be changed. Coming to NATO, the questions the review asks are the same: is membership in NATO in Canada's national interest?; does membership in NATO represent an effective Canadian contribution to the maintenance of world peace?

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I can't answer these questions for you today, since the Government has not yet arrived at any conclusion. I can however, discuss with you the background against which the decision will be made and some of the considerations that will bear upon it....

While the immediate threat which led to the establishment of NATO was to the Western European democracies, it was seen in Canada and the United States as directly affecting North American security. The lesson of two world wars had been learned, and we accepted that we could hardly remain uninvolved if a third such war should break out. At the same time, however, Canada shared the general feeling that it is possible to benefit by past mistakes; that, by taking the right action at the right time, it should be possible to prevent a war rather than have to fight it. Gradually, it came to be accepted that the effective action which was required could only be achieved on a collective basis. Mr. St. Laurent was the first Western statesman to express this conclusion, when he said on July 11, 1948: "We believe that it must be made clear to the rulers of the totalitarian Communist states that, if they attempt by



direct or indirect aggression to extend their police states beyond their present bounds by subduing any more free nations, they will not succeed unless they can overcome us all."

#### VALUE OF NATO

All this was 20 years ago, and perhaps the most telling answer to the question of whether NATO has been worthwhile is to be found in the simple fact that, since its establishment, no further European countries have fallen under Soviet domination — either through direct military intervention or by subversion. The nations of Western Europe have grown and prospered. In a period marked by violence and conflict in other parts of the world, Europe has enjoyed a unique degree of stability. NATO's success is often taken for granted these days, but this fact should not be allowed to detract from its achievements. Paradoxically, it is the fact of NATO's success that permits the luxury of questioning the need for it. I am often asked how one can be sure that the 20 years of peace Europe has enjoyed are due to the existence of NATO. I suppose in the end there is no substantive proof, but I can tell you this: the question is one which is easily asked in Calgary, 6,000 miles from the Iron Curtain. but it is a question that simply is not asked by those who live their daily lives in the shadow of massive Soviet forces.

NATO is unique in the sense that it is the only example of a formal alliance that operates effectively in peace-time. Fifteen countries, despite their inevitable conflicts in national interest, have been able to continue to co-operate for two decades. This is a major accomplishment and something to celebrate. It also bears on the contention that the members of NATO have not, in fact, faced a real threat from the Soviet Union — that the danger they see is imaginary. If 15 independent states have been prepared to make the effort required to maintain an effective alliance arrangement for 20 years, there must be a commonly perceived danger to which they consider a collective response the best answer. The danger is quite clear. The Soviet Union continues to increase and streamline its enormous military potential; its intentions remain uncertain; and there are unsolved problems in Europe which could ignite a nuclear war because they involve the vital interests of the super-powers. Canada cannot remain indifferent to this danger...

While NATO brings important advantages to its members, the alliance approach also involves both military and political obligations. On the military side, in addition to the guarantee of mutual assistance under the Treaty, there is an implicit understanding that each member will make an appropriate contribution to the overall military resources of the alliance. In the political sphere, just as there is an opportunity to advance ideas and influence the actions of others in the alliance, so there is a requirement to take views and interests of others

into account. NATO operates by consensus and there is an expectation that, except in special circumstances, agreement will be reached...

In an organization made up of 15 governments, there can at times be some difficulty and delay in co-ordinating views. At the same time, to the extent that there is a braking influence, it can have a positive value in restraining a member country from taking precipitate action which could have an adverse effect on the alliance as a whole. When one is dealing with issues of war and peace (and particularly nuclear war), this could be vital. Secondly, while progress toward political solutions may appear slow when approached on a collective basis, otherwise there might well be no progress at all.

NATO, like any large and complex organization, has its imperfections. For each member the question is simple — do the advantages of belonging to NATO outweigh the disadvantages? Unlike the members of the Warsaw Pact, the members of NATO are free to withdraw if they should wish, but the fact that after 20 years none of them has so far chosen to do so suggests clearly where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies.

#### CANADA AND NATO

Looking at NATO in today's world, we must ask ourselves — what is its role in the immediate future and where does Canada fit in?

It seems to me that a durable solution to the problems which continue to plague Europe and threaten world peace must contain two elements: a lasting settlement, on a generally acceptable basis, of the political issues of Central Europe, including the division of Germany; and the creation of some type of European security arrangement which would adequately meet the needs of all the countries concerned, both East and West.

The issues involved are complex and this goal will not be achieved quickly or easily. If any progress is to be made, there must be some mechanism to keep the peace and at the same time contribute to the creation of a climate in which movement toward a durable solution is possible. Does NATO satisfy these dual requirements?

NATO's main emphasis in the early years was on providing a defensive shield against possible Soviet aggression in Western Europe. This continues to be a fundamental purpose of the alliance, but the emphasis is shifting as Europe's political and military circumstances change. The alliance is now devoting its energies and attention to the twin objectives of deterrence, which is the prevention of war, and of *détente*, which is concerned with improving relations between the Eastern and Western nations.

The objective of deterrence is to prevent war. To do this, the alliance must try to maintain a situation in which Soviet military adventure is obviously unrewarding and the likelihood of war breaking out in Europe is minimized. At the same time, if a conflict



## CANADA'S YOUNG MUSICAL AMBASSADORS

The Laurentian Symphonic Band of Ottawa has been chosen by Canadian Forces Headquarters to entertain Canadian servicemen in Europe in summer.

The band, consisting of 100 boys and girls ranging in age from 15 to 20 years, will visit the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and France for 25 days during June and July. The young musicians, pupils of Laurentian High School, where music is part of the curriculum, have performed in many areas in Canada and the United States but this will be their first European tour. The conductor is Henry Bonnenberg, Director of Music at Laurentian High.

Howard A. Barber, the school principal, will be in charge of the contingent, and Lieutenant-Colonel, D.H. Morgan, a staff officer at CFHQ in Ottawa, has been assigned as project officer for the visit to the Forces in Europe.

During four-day visits to the Canadian Brigade at Soest and the Canadian Air Division in Lahr, Germany, band members will be billeted with pupils of the schools for dependents of Canadian servicemen there. While in Lahr, the band has arranged with the commander of the Canadian Air Division to choose a German high school student from Lahr; who will return to Canada with the band and be enrolled at Laurentian High School for the 1969-70 school year as an "exchange student". While in Canada, the visitor will stay with the family of a band member.

Funds to support the exchange student are being provided by the Canadian pupils of Lahr schools by the sale of tickets for the Laurentian Band performances there.

### CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

The band's visit to Europe is part of their citizenship educational project, called "Bridge 1969",

which has the purpose of "bridging the Canadian-European cultures and illustrating Canada's place in the international community". The aim is to develop knowledge and understanding of the countries visited and to provide opportunities to assimilate European culture and interests by personal visits with young people in these countries, as well as to foster understanding of young Canadians by their European hosts. With music as the "international language", the group is confident of common understanding among their European friends.

### EARNED OWN FARES

The members of the Laurentian Band have worked extremely hard for over a year to earn money for their passage to Europe. They sold 17,000 chocolate bars, 2,500 pens, 10,000 concert tickets and numerous other items. They also collected empty bottles, washed cars, cleaned windows, did housework and baby-sitting, worked on farms and sold newspapers.

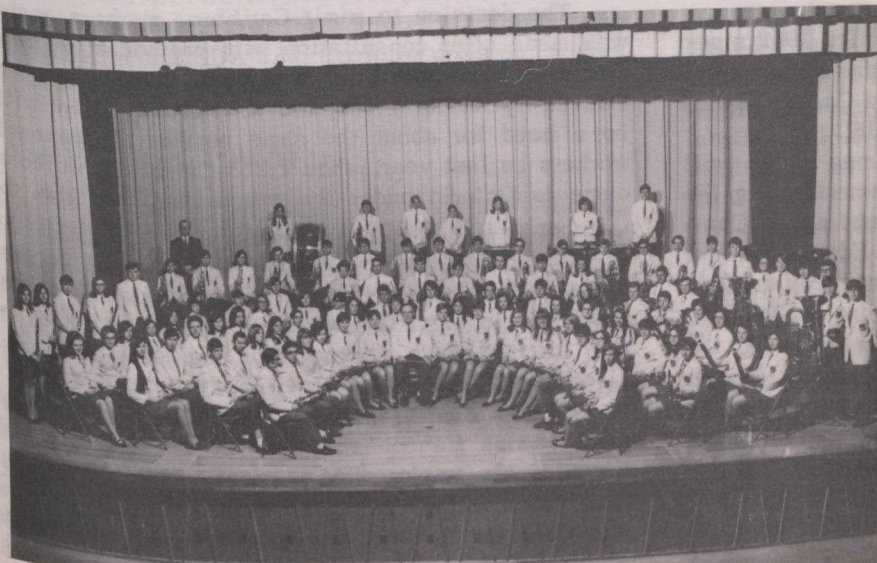
The administrative supporting organization, known as the Laurentian Band Boosters, has also undertaken many projects on their behalf. This group, composed of parents of band members, former band members and friends, has held buffet dinners, pancake lunches, coffee-parties, fund canvasses and other money-raising projects.

### YOUNG AMBASSADORS

For the purposes of "Bridge 1969", the musicians of the Laurentian Symphonic Band have been named the official representatives of the Government of Ontario. Further, Mayor Don Reid of Ottawa has appointed the band members "ambassadors" of the citizens of Ottawa for the period of their tour.

In writing to European citizens about the band's travel project, Mayor Reid said: "The growing

strength of our nation is represented by these young ambassadors. Many are descendents of your country. It is their honour to visit the lands of their forefathers and, in their own way, to reward you for its heritage. On behalf of the citizens of Ottawa I express our appreciation for your kindnesses to them."



*The Laurentian Symphonic Band*



## VISITS AND VISITORS

### MR. TRUDEAU TO WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau will visit Washington this month at the invitation of President Nixon.

In a statement to the House of Commons on February 21, he said that Mr. Nixon had suggested he go to Washington shortly after the President returned from Europe "to permit him to share with me his impressions of the current situation there".

The Prime Minister will be in the United States capital on March 24 and 25.

### AUSTRALIAN PM TO OTTAWA

The Prime Minister has announced that Prime Minister J.G. Gorton, of Australia, has accepted an invitation to visit Ottawa next month. Mr. Gorton will come to Ottawa on April 2 from Washington, following an official visit in the course of which he will call on President Nixon.

### U.S. ENVOY TO AECL

The United States Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Harold F. Linder, visited the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited last month, accompanied by Mrs. Linder, Rufus Z. Smith, Minister at the U.S. Embassy, and Mrs. Smith. They were joined by Colonel and Mrs. M.H. Vinzant. Colonel Vinzant is Deputy Commander, 41st NORAD Division, North Bay, Ontario.

The group met with L.R. Haywood, Vice-President of CRNL, and other senior officials at the laboratories. They also met with R.W. Ramsey, Jr., Scientific Representative, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Chalk River office. Mr. Ramsey is a scientific liaison officer for atomic energy and Mr. Linder's visit afforded him an opportunity to familiarize himself with the work of the USAEC in Canada.

## STAMP PROGRAMME REVISED

Revisions in the Canada Post Office 1969 stamp programme, announced recently by Postmaster-General Eric Kierans, include the addition of a Canada Games issue that will go on sale on August 15.

The release of the Canada Games stamp will coincide with that of an issue commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Charlottetown as the capital of Prince Edward Island; the Charlottetown issue has been rescheduled from the previously announced date of August 19. A further revision will defer from May 21 until June 13, the release of a stamp marking the first non-stop transatlantic flight.

This stamp will celebrate the conception of the Canada Games rather than any specific event associated with them. Quebec City was the site of the First Canadian Winter Games in February 1967; the First Canadian Summer Games, to be held from August 15

to 25 at Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, completes a cycle which will be repeated at similar intervals in the future. The Games, which encourage inter-provincial amateur participation in a wide range of sports, are sponsored by the Fitness and Amateur Sport Programme of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

## HISTORIC PORTRAIT UNVEILED

A second version of the famous painting by Robert Harris, entitled "Fathers of Confederation", has been placed on permanent display at the National Library and Archives. A Toronto artist, Rex Woods, was commissioned to re-create the first painting, which was destroyed in the fire that ravaged the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings 53 years ago.

Although it is essentially faithful to the original, the new painting includes four new figures, three of whom - Sir William P. Howland, John W. Richie and Robert D. Wilmot - did not appear in the Harris picture, since they were not recognized officially until 1927, 11 years after the first painting was destroyed. The fourth figure not included in the original is that of the artist, Harris, who is shown in the new work seated at his easel overlooking the Fathers at the edge of the portrait.

The new portrait, which is 14 feet by 8 feet, was transferred to the National Library and Archives after an unveiling ceremony in the Parliament Buildings presided over by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

## CARIBBEAN SEASONAL WORKERS

Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, Minister of Manpower and Immigration, has announced that seasonal workers from the Caribbean will be admitted to Canada again this summer to help Ontario farmers grow harvest and can their fruits and vegetables.

The decision to admit Caribbean workers again was made after consultation with provincial departments of agriculture at a recent meeting of the Canada Agricultural Manpower Committee. There will be a need for about the same number of seasonal workers as last year, when 1,258 Caribbean workers came to Ontario under the programme from May to October.

The terms and conditions of work will be the same as last year. In line with the increased wages now paid to Canadian workers, the minimum wage rate for Caribbean workers this year will be \$1.56, 11 cents, or 7.7 percent above last year's level.

The maximum period for which any one worker may stay in Canada will be four months, and the minimum six weeks. The employer pays the return fare, Jamaica to Toronto, provides adequate accommodation, and pays the prevailing hourly or piece-work rate if higher than the \$1.56 an hour minimum.



## TRIBUTE TO ESHKOL

Prime Minister Trudeau made the following statement on February 26 concerning the death of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of Israel:

The Canadian Government and Canadians everywhere learned with deep regret of the passing away of the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Levi Eshkol. All Israel will mourn the loss of a devoted servant.

Mr. Eshkol served his country in many capacities. He was a pioneer and a builder who never lost sight of the human dimension in all he undertook. Both before and after he entered politics he took an active and leading part in agricultural and industrial development. In all the positions he held, as Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Finance and Prime Minister, he earnestly furthered the welfare of his people and won a well earned reputation for dedicated leadership.

Mr. Eshkol visited this country in January a year ago and the many Canadians, and members of the Government who had the privilege of meeting him, will long remember his warmth, charm and unaffected simplicity.

The Government of Canada extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Eshkol and the immediate family, and to the Government and people of Israel. The Government of Canada will be represented at the funeral by the Honourable Paul Martin and Mr. Philip Givens, Member of Parliament.

## U.S. HONOURS SCIENTISTS

Two Canada Department of Agriculture scientists, Dr. C.J. Bishop, research co-ordinator (horticulture) with the Research Branch at Ottawa, and Dr. D.V. Fisher, head of the promology section of the Research Station at Summerland, British Columbia, have been elected Fellows of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

The fellowships are awarded for outstanding contributions to horticultural science. Only one other Canadian, Mr. M.B. Davis, has been previously honoured with a fellowship by the society. Mr. Davis, who was chief of the CDA's horticulture division, retired in 1955.

## CANADA-JAPAN COMMITTEE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that the fifth meeting of the Canada-Japan Ministerial Committee will be held in Tokyo on April 17 and 18. The agenda and other details of the schedule will be decided in consultation with the Japanese Government.

The Canada-Japan Ministerial Committee was established during a visit to Ottawa of the Prime Minister of Japan in 1961, when it was agreed that, in view of the increasing importance of relations between the two countries, ministers of the two governments should meet from time to time to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and to

familiarize themselves with one another's problems. The Ministerial Committee is not meant to be a negotiating body.

Four meetings of the Committee have been held: in Tokyo in January 1963 and September 1964, in Ottawa in September 1963 and October 1966.

## CHARLOTTETOWN FESTIVAL

A new Canadian musical comedy, *Life Can Be - Like Wow!* will be featured, together with *Johnny Belinda* and *Anne of Green Gables*, at the Charlottetown Festival, opening on June 30. Marian Grudeff and Roy Jessel, who wrote the book, music and lyrics, admit the story is based on Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. Their version, however, concerns not a seventeenth century would-be gentleman but a middle-aged "square" who adopts the manners of a "hippie".

The Festival will run until the end of August.

## AID FOR DOMINICAN AIRPORT

In response to a request of the Government of Dominica, Canada has agreed to assist in the reconstruction of the airport runway at Melville Hall Field in Dominica.

The runway at Melville Hall, the only airfield in Dominica, has been deteriorating under the stress of heavy aircraft at present in use in inter-island service throughout the West Indies. Early rehabilitation of the runway is required if air service to the island is not to be disrupted by further deterioration. It has already been necessary to close the airport to traffic two days a week for emergency repairs.

Estimated cost of the project is \$1 million; work will probably begin following completion of an engineering survey of the airfield, which is currently in progress.

## COSTS OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH

The first comprehensive report on federal financial assistance for research in the academic community was released on March 4 by the Department of the Secretary of State. In 1967-68, expenditures totalled \$105.9 million, an increase of more than one-third from the \$79.3 million spent in the previous year.

Support for research in 1967-68 channelled through some 40 federal organizations, comprised capital and operating grants, research grants and contracts, awards and other forms of assistance.

Scores of Canadian institutions and organizations and thousands of individuals are being assisted in pursuing research in the physical and life sciences, the humanities and social sciences.

The report, entitled *Federal Expenditures on Research in the Academic Community*, shows the National Research Council and the Medical Research Council as the principal contributors. These organi-



zations accounted for 62 per cent of the total in 1967-68. The Canada Council is the main source of funds for research in the social sciences and humanities. Other major contributors include the Defence Research board, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

A further report on federal financial assistance for post-secondary education is being prepared for release shortly.

## WATER-DROPPING AIRCRAFT

The development in Ontario of water-dropping equipment for aircraft with floats to help fight forest fires began just after the end of the Second World War. At that time, the province's department of lands forests installed intake valves fitted with a non-return device into the floats of a *Norseman* aircraft based at Temagami. The valves enabled the aircraft to scoop up water into the oversized floats as it taxied forward, and then release it in flight as desired. Although the basic idea proved sound, technical difficulties, and unsatisfactory results forced its abandonment.

In 1949, the department reverted to a more primitive method of dropping salvos of latex-lined paper bags containing three or four gallons of water. The equipment required for the system was cumbersome, and although it is reported the drops did have some effect on unmanned fires, the system was never really accepted by forest-protection officers.

The next attempts were made with removable tanks mounted in the aircraft but, because of the numerous problems and the limitations of the system which reduced its practicability, these trials were abandoned before their development had progressed to any great extent.

The real breakthrough came with the development of cylindrical, detachable, float-mounted aluminum tanks. Water was forced into the tanks through a snorkel tube that projected down below the surface of the water as the plane taxied forward. To empty the tanks, the pilot released a catch and they rolled outwards, spilling the water from their open tops. Although this system proved effective, it did not concentrate the water into a deluge as was desired. Later versions were somewhat improved by having the tanks empty to the inboard side of the floats so that the water from both tanks would merge just after being released. This system is still used by some commercial operators in the province.

Later, a single, central belly tank was developed for the *Otter* aircraft to take the place of the two float-mounted tanks and to provide a slightly greater water-carrying capacity. Water was picked up through two snorkel tubes.

## PERMANENT FLOATS

The latest system that has been developed by the department is a permanent installation in the floats of the aircraft which eliminates any drag associated

with the previous system. In essence, it is a reversion to the very first system tried. Water is picked up through retractable clam-shell type probes while the aircraft is taxiing and is fed into tanks in the compartments of the floats. An automatic load-selector enables the pilot to choose the proper load of water in gallons for the aircraft. As fuel is consumed during an operation, water loads can be increased to a maximum of 140 imperial gallons for the turbo *Beaver* and 230 imperial gallons for conventional *Otter* aircraft. Taxi distances required for water pick-up are relatively short for both types of aircraft, which enables them to work out of small lakes.

This latest development as an integral part of the aircraft's floats, permits it to be used for cargo or passenger transport, but at the same time makes it immediately available for the suppression of fires without the removal or installation of special equipment. It has not been necessary to acquire special or additional aircraft for this role.

## CATTLE IMPORTS

Canadian breeders will again this year, be able to import cattle from France and Switzerland, providing the disease situation in these countries continues to be favourable.

Since the first importation in 1965 from France, more than 800 head of breeding cattle have entered Canada through the maximum security quarantine station at Grosse Ile, Quebec. This figure includes animals that will be released from the station this spring.

The object of the Canada Department of Agriculture's importation programme is to provide breeders with bloodlines that will add to the profitability and efficiency of the Canadian livestock industry.

Since the programme began the demand for import permits has exceeded the space available at the Grosse Ile quarantine station. To ensure that permits are allocated to those who will use the imported cattle to the maximum benefit of Canadian agriculture, the Department asks each prospective importer to meet certain conditions.

European cattle brought to Canada in 1969 will begin the required 30-day quarantine period at Brest, France, in late August or early September. From there they will be transported to the Grosse Ile quarantine station for disease tests.

## POPULATION OF CANADA

Canada's population as of January 1 was estimated at 20,940,000, an increase of 310,000, or 1.5 per cent, since January 1, 1968. The increase between January 1, 1967, and January 1, 1968, was 378,000, or 1.9 per cent. The smaller increase during the past year was mainly owing to a decrease in the number of immigrants and a small decrease in births.



while deaths and estimated emigration increased slightly.

PROVINCIAL COUNT

During 1968, Ontario gained in population by 140,000 (1.9 per cent), the largest increase of all the provinces. British Columbia gained 55,000; this, however, was the greatest percentage increase at 2.8. Quebec gained 52,000 (0.9 per cent) and Alberta's gain was 36,000, or 2.4 per cent. Newfoundland gained 10,000; Manitoba, 8,000 and Saskatchewan, 2,000; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick both gained 3,000, while Prince Edward Island remained at 110,000.

The final census count of June 1, 1966, was the starting point of these estimates. To these provincial counts were added births and immigration by quarterly period, while deaths and emigration were subtracted and the interprovincial movement of population was calculated from data on movements of families in receipt for family allowances.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT SALES IN U.S.

For the second time in three months, Canadian manufacturers of educational equipment have made significant inroads into the \$50-billion United States education market.

In December, 13 Canadian companies made a first entry into this market during the American Vocational Association Convention in Dallas, Texas, from which sales of more than \$1.7 million have been predicted during the next 12 months. Last month, 19 Canadian school-equipment manufacturers made up the largest exhibit at the American Association of School Administrators Convention in Atlantic City from February 15 to 19. At the fair site \$266,600-worth of Canadian equipment was sold and further sales of more than \$5.1 million have been forecast over the next 12 months as a result of this exposure to the market.

Convention delegates arrived in Atlantic City well aware of Canada's presence. A special 24-page supplement, highlighting Canadian innovations in modern education, was inserted in a leading U.S. education magazine, with a circulation of 42,000, prior to the convention. Five thousand supplements were distributed to convention delegates and an additional 7,000 have been mailed to a select list of U.S. educators.

NATO IN CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from P. 2)

should occur, NATO must have the ability to respond effectively and prevent escalation to all-out nuclear war.

NATO A PEACEKEEPING FORCE

To achieve these objectives, NATO has developed the capacity for "flexible response". This requires

NATO to have available enough military forces, both conventional and nuclear, to convince the Soviet Union that any type of armed attack on its part would be unprofitable. Above all, the strategy of flexible response attempts to avoid a situation in which NATO would be faced with the stark choice of yielding to a conventional attack or resorting to nuclear war. It is also designed to contain an incident started by accident or miscalculation long enough to make a political solution possible without resort to tactical or strategic nuclear weapons. In such a situation, days or even hours could be crucial. This is why NATO is correctly described as a peacekeeping force....

Whatever Canada may decide, the alliance will continue to be the mechanism through which peace in Europe is maintained and decisions are taken on the issues affecting the evolution of East-West relations and the solution of European political problems. We must decide if these matters are of real concern to us and, if so, whether we have a better chance of influencing them in a favourable direction through continued membership in the alliance or by withdrawing.

I appreciate that there are differing points of view as to the importance of developments in Europe for Canada and our ability to influence them. Because of this, I think the open debate we are having is highly desirable. For my part, I cannot escape the conclusion that what happens in Europe matters very much to Canada. Our interests there cover many areas - history, culture, trade and finance, to mention only a few. Perhaps the most fundamental of all, however, relates to the fact that it is in Europe that the vital interests of the super-powers are in starkest confrontation, so that there is the greatest chance of a conflict escalating into a nuclear war. Because of Canada's geographic position between the two super-powers, this war would be fought out above our very heads. This is why Canada has a direct, selfish interest in the prevention of war.

I am not suggesting here that we ignore our interests in other parts of the world, but simply that, in terms of priority, Europe and developments there must continue to have a major claim on our energy and attention for some time to come.

Last summer's events in Czechoslovakia illustrated dramatically the determination of the Soviet Union to maintain its grip on Eastern Europe. It is difficult to accept, however, that the urge for greater freedom and a better way of life now manifesting itself on the other side of the Iron Curtain can be indefinitely suppressed, even through the brutal use of force. With all the uncertainties inherent in this situation, the period ahead seems to call for a combination of vigilance and perception. Vigilance is needed to cope with the consequences for the West of further difficulties such as Czechoslovakia; perception, to discern opportunities that the inevitable process of change in Eastern Europe might provide to make progress on Europe's political problems.



POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Will Canadian interests in the future best be served through continued Canadian membership in NATO? One of the major concerns in our review of defence policy and related foreign policy considerations has been to establish whether there are in fact any better alternatives to NATO for Canada. We are examining this problem ourselves, we are seeking the views of other informed observers and taking account of the opinions we have received from the public at large. At the same time, a Parliamentary committee is conducting its own review of many of the issues.

If we should decide that it is in our interest to remain in NATO, it will be necessary to take account of the responsibilities as well as the benefits that go with such a policy. I mention this because there have been suggestions recently that, by withdrawing from the alliance or maintaining only nominal membership, Canada could have most of the benefits the system provides without paying for them. I doubt that

this approach would appeal to many Canadians or that the benefits would in fact flow so readily. This is not to say that a decision to stay in NATO would mean that we stay for another 20 years, or that our military contribution will remain the same.

Governments are often accused of losing touch with the wishes and aspirations of the people, and the Government of Canada has heard such accusations often enough. But there is one issue on which the Government and the people of Canada stand foursquare together – the paramount determination to do our part to prevent war. If Canada decides to stay in NATO, it will be because we are convinced that in NATO we can effectively help to prevent war. If some other course is taken, it will be because we think such a course will better enable us to help to prevent war. No other consideration, however seductive it may appear, will be permitted to deflect Canada from its supreme objective, the prevention of war.