

**DEFENCE POLICY PANEL
FRIDAY 3RD OF MARCH 2005**

COL (RET'D) HJ MARSH

PREAMBLE:

MY THESIS IS THAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN AND HEARD THE PROMISED DEFENCE POLICY STATEMENT BUT WE HAVE YET TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT.

WE ARE A DIFFICULT AUDIENCE. WE COMPLAIN WHEN THE GOVERNMENT GIVES US WORDS AND THEN NO MONEY. WE COMPLAIN WHEN THEY SHOW US THE MONEY BUT ARE LATE IN GIVING US THE WORDS!

CONTEXT

DEFENCE POLICY REVIEWS/STATEMENTS TEND TO OCCUR EVERY 10-15 YEARS. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT THEY ARE MID-COURSE CORRECTIONS WITHIN A LARGER CONTEXT. AND WE SHOULD VIEW THE NEXT POLICY STATEMENT AS THAT; IT IS A MID-POINT CORRECTION ON THE WAY TO THE 2015-2020 WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY.

DR BARNETT SPOKE YESTERDAY OF THE LONG-TERM CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS. THE 2005 DEFENCE POLICY REFLECTS THIS REALITY—THE REALITY OF THE SPECTRUM OF CONNECTEDNESS. THE INCREASING CONNECTEDNESS OF NORTH AMERICA ALLOWS CANADA TO HAVE LESS RESOURCES DEDICATED TO NORTH AMERICAN DEFENCE, SUCH AS AEROSPACE. ON THE OTHER HAND THE RESISTANCE TO GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS PUSHES US TO EXPEDITIONARY AND SPECIAL FORCE ENHANCEMENT.

I BELIEVE THAT WE ALREADY KNOW 90% OF THE PROMISED POLICY. I HAVE LISTENED TO OVER 50 SPEAKERS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS-- MINISTERS TO AMBASSADORS TO CREDIBLE GOVERNMENT ADVISORS-- AND THEIR MESSAGE CONVERGES ON A NUMBER OF THEMES.

To Quote the Prime Minister of Canada (24TH February 2004):

“Canada recognizes the enormous burden that the United States shoulders when it comes to international peace and security. The substantial increases made yesterday to our defence budget are a tangible indication that **Canada intends to carry its full share of that global responsibility**. In the foreign and defence papers to be released soon we will elaborate further on how we will discharge these international responsibilities.”

AND:

“Ballistic missile defence is not where we will concentrate our efforts. Instead **we will act – both alone** and with our neighbours – on defence priorities such as those outlined in yesterday’s budget. These include: strengthening the security of our common border, bolstering security at points of entry, reinforcing our **coastal and arctic sovereignty**, increasing support for **intelligence**, expanding our armed forces and increasing our capital investment in **helicopters, trucks, aircrafts and ships**.”

AND

“Canada will also continue to work closely with the United States – and with other allies - on security and defence matters right around the world.”

BUDGET 2005

**BUDGET 2005 ADDS MORE DETAILS TO THE PRIME MINISTERS STATEMENT--
THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SPEND MORE MONEY ON DEFENCE TO:**

- **INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SERVICE MEMBERS;**
 - **EXPANDED SPECIAL FORCES**
 - **ACQUIRE ARCTIC UTILITY AIRCRAFT**
 - **ENHANCE TACTICAL LIFT THROUGH NEW TRUCKS AND HELICOPTERS**
 - **ENHANCE OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY,AND**
 - **SETS ASIDE \$3.8 BILLION FOR YET-TO-BE ANNOUNCED**
- CAPABILITIES THAT WE BELIEVE ARE STRATEGIC LIFT. THE EXACT
RATIO OF AIR TO SEA LIFT IS NOT YET KNOWN.**

**EXCERPTS FROM RECENT SPEECHES BY MINISTERS GRAHAM AND
PETTIGREW ALERT US TO:**

- **AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FOREIGN AND DEFENCE POLICIES
BASED ON A MORE CAPABLE MILITARY, STRONGER FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND MORE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.
(Budget 2005 allotted \$12.8 billion more to defence, \$3.4 billion more to
development, and \$600 million more to Foreign Affairs)**
- **MINISTER GRAHAM HAS TOLD US THAT PEACEKEEPING IS RARE
AND THAT FUTURE INTERVENTIONS WILL RESSEMBLE THAT OF
THE MARINE CORPS “THREE BLOCK WAR” MODEL.**
- **MND GRAHAM AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY RECENTLY ALERTED US TO
THE NEED FOR A **UNIFIED APPROACH TO COMMAND** AND A
FUNDAMENTAL RESTRUCTURING OF THE CANADIAN FORCES.**

**GIVEN THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN
BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENCE, AND THE NEED TO REASSURE THE USA
THAT WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT DEFENCE MATTERS IT IS LIKELY THAT
AMERICAN SUGGESTIONS HAVE MORE WEIGHT IN THIS SEASON.**

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA YESTERDAY SUGGESTED THAT CANADA FOCUS ON WHAT IT DOES WELL AND REMINDED US THAT, AS A NATION WE EXCELL IN COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION IMAGERY ANALYSIS AND INTEGRATION AND THAT CANADA'S MILITARY SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY THIS EXPERTISE TO COMMAND, COMPUTERS, INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION. SOUNDS LIKE **CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE (CFISR)** COULD BE IN THE STATEMENT.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SPOKE OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY CANADA'S SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS CAPABILITY DEVELOP BOTH A LEVEL ONE AND LEVEL TWO CAPABILITY. NOT ONLY ARE **SPECIAL FORCES EXPANDING** IN SIZE AND GETTING NEW FACILITIES THEY COULD BE LINE FOR AN **ENHANCED MANDATE.**

THE AMBASSADOR REMINDED US THAT WE HAVE NEGLECTED OUR AVIATION HERITAGE AND THAT CANADA'S NEEDS TO CEASE BEING A CONSUMER OF STRATEGIC AIRLIFT AND BECOME A PROVIDER OF STRATEGIC AIRLIFT TO LESS WEALTHY NATIONS. I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF **STRATEGIC AIRLIFT** WAS MENTIONED.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS CONFIRM CANADA'S RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN A NAVY, AIRFORCE AND RESERVES.

YESTERDAY THE CDS OFFERED US MORE INSIGHT. HE MENTIONED CANADA BEING A GEOGRAPHICAL THEATRE AND THE NEED FOR DEEPER INTERGRATION. THAT SOUNDS LIKE UNIFIED COMMAND.

WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE DETAILS. WOULD THE CANADIAN FORCES ADOPT THE UNIFIED APPROACH OF THE USA BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS AND FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, OR WILL THE CANADIAN APPROACH SEE THE INTEGRATION OF MILITARY AND NATIONAL ASSETS UNDER REGIONAL COMMANDERS?

IN TIMES OF NATIONAL STRESS AN ATLANTIC UNIFIED COMMAND COULD BEST COORDINATE NATIONAL ASSETS (RCMP, CSE, CSIS,ETC.) WITH THE ATLANTIC FLEET, THE COAST GUARD, PROVINCIAL AND CITY POLICE FORCES, HARBOUR POLICE, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

UNIFIED COMMAND RAISES A NUMBER OF INTERESTING QUESTIONS.

- SPECIAL FORCES WILL EXPAND IN NUMBERS AND SCOPE, MIGHT THEY BECOME A FUNCTIONAL COMMAND?**
- WOULD THE CF CREATE A STRATEGIC TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT COMMAND OR ALLOCATE THE NEW CAPABILITIES TO THE AIR AND SEA SERVICES?**

HOWEVER IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE NAVY WOULD COMMAND STRATEGIC SEALIFT AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO LAND OPERATIONS WHILE RETAINING ITS MARITIME TASK FORCE COMMAND, SURVEILLANCE AND DEFENCE CAPABILITIES.

THE ARMY WILL BE COMBAT CENTRIC, MORE MOBILE AND PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP FOR ARMED AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

THE AIRFORCE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE CF-18 AIR INTERDICTION ROLE, AND COULD SEE AN AUGMENTATION IN LAND TACTICAL AVIATION AND POSSIBLY STRATEGIC AIRLIFT IF A TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT COMMAND IS NOT CREATED. THEY COULD BE ON THE WAY TO THE ARCTIC WITH NEW AIRCRAFT AND UAV.

TO DATE THE DEFENCE POLICY STATEMENTS ARE ENCOURAGING. HOWEVER THE TRANSITION FROM 40 YEARS OF DECLINE TO A MODERN CAPABLE FORCE WILL TAKE MORE THAN VISIONARY WORDS.

MND GRAHAM APPEARS TO HAVE CONVINCED HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE NEED TO INVEST IN DEFENCE AND GENERAL HILLIER HAS A LAUDABLE VISION. HOWEVER THE CHALLENGES ARE GREAT. IN ADDITION TO OVERCOMING THE ACCUMULATED DEBTS THERE NEEDS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT TRANSFORMATION IN THE NDHQ MILITARY-CIVILIAN CULTURE AND IN CABINET'S ADMINISTRATION OF DEFENCE. TODAY ONLY 85 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR GETS TO THE VCDS AND OF THAT ONLY 65 CENTS BUYS TACTICAL CAPABILITY. LARGE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SWALLOW CAPITAL MONIES.

I BELIEVE THAT THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (THE PREMIER MANAGER OF DEFENCE) IS ON THE CRITICAL PATH TO SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF DEFENCE POLICY STATEMENT 2005. NEITHER POLITICAL WILL, LEADERSHIP, NOR VISION APPEAR LACKING.

MANAGING TURNAROUNDS, EXPANSIONS, MODERNIZATIONS AND TRANSFORMATION ARE FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE THAN THE STAUS QUO. MANAGEMENT OF THE GOOD INTENTIONS IS WHERE THE CHALLENGE RESTS.