

CDA Institute Tenth Annual Seminar, 1994

Defence and Public Opinion

Defence and Public Opinion in Canada:

Martin Shadwick

"What do Canadians expect or require from their Armed Forces in the 1990's and beyond? How much are they prepared to spend on defence? Are they willing to support a general-purpose, combat-capable defence establishment, or would they prefer a "constabulary" defence establishment geared to low-end, Cyprus-style peace-keeping and an eclectic assortment of quasi-military and non-military tasks?"

The Navy and Public Opinion

Commodore Basil Moore(Ret'd)

"As our new government launches its impending defence and foreign policy review, we will be hearing a lot about public opinion and the role it could or should play in the process; for indeed it should be a significant factor. And the more informed that opinion, the more constructive, will be its role.

The Army and Public Opinion

Major-General Terry Liston(Ret'd)

"The Liberal electoral platform promises to involve the Canadian public to a greater extent in the development of defence policy and in such decisions as the deployment of peace-keeping contingents."

The Air Force and Public Opinion

Lieutenant-General Robert Morton

"I thought I should identify my perception of what the public thinks about their Air Force, what they support, and when they begin to waffle. And I am going to tell you what I think we need in the Air Force, and why, and what we can do about public opinion and respond favourably to those needs."

Panel Discussion: Defence, Trade, and Society

John Lacharity, Moderator

Ed Healey, Senior Principal, CFN Consultants

Peter Gizewski, Senior Research Associate, Canadian Centre for Global Security

David Hagland, Director, Centre for International Relations, Queen's University