

## Minister's Speech

Defence Minister David Pratt speaks at 20th annual CDAI Seminar

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**National Defence Minister David Pratt is a Keynote Speaker at the 20th Annual Conference of Defence Associations Institute Seminar Entitled "The Way Ahead for Canadian Foreign and Defence Policy"**

Hon. David Pratt: Thank you very much, General, for those very generous introductory comments. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It's a real pleasure to be with you today. I certainly see many familiar faces from my time as Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs and I'm glad that so many of you could join us this morning.

I'd like to start by saying how pleased and honoured I was to have been appointed Minister of National Defence last December. It is in my view one of the most interesting and certainly challenging portfolios of the federal government. Some of you may be thinking that David Pratt as Minister of National Defence will be a great deal different from David Pratt as Chair of the Defence Committee. Allow me to set your mind at ease. My support for the men and women of the Canadian Forces hasn't changed one bit. What has changed, though, is my ability to affect the type of change that I advocated as chair.

Au cours des dernières années, j'ai eu l'occasion de voir personnellement l'incroyable travail que les Forces canadiennes accomplissent au nom des Canadiens autant ici qu'à l'étranger. J'ai également eu l'occasion de prendre connaissance de certains défis auxquels elles sont confrontées.

But whether it was a Chair of the Defence Committee or now as minister, my message to Canadians remains the same: our men and women in uniform are the proud successors of those who came before them and who, through their dedication and sacrifice, have carved out for this country an extraordinary military history. Our contribution to international peace and security in the 20th century was out of all proportion to our size as a nation. I sincerely hope that this history will stay the same -- I sincerely hope that history will say the same of this century.

The members of today's defence team, military and civilian, will never rest on their laurels. They are dedicated, skilled, professional people who work hard to protect Canada and Canadians and to promote our interests and values abroad. For me, it's a tremendous honour to be part of this team.

Over the past few years, I've also come to appreciate the work of the Conference of Defence Associations and its institute in supporting the Canadian Forces and in informing and educating Canadians about defence issues. I'd like to thank you for your significant contribution in this regard and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the months and years to come.

It's certainly a pivotal time to be engaged in defence issues. Earlier this month - although it seems like a lot longer - the Speech from the Throne contained the most extensive and specific mention of defence in recent memory. In the speech, the government set out an ambitious agenda for this country - one that will restore Canada's place and influence in the world. Personally, I'm very excited about this agenda. It's precisely what we were promoting at the Defence Committee: an integrated review of Canada's foreign and defence policies. In fact, the government has decided to take an even broader view and has included foreign aid and trade. This will give us a more comprehensive policy framework with the tools we need to fully capture our sense of Canadian -- our Canadian sense of international purpose.

In general terms, the defence review will look at the Canadian Forces through four lenses. First: capability. The Canadian Forces must have the ability to fulfill any mission necessary to effectively defend Canada, protect the continent and contribute to international peace and security.

Second: deployability. The government must be able to swiftly send our personnel and equipment where they're needed whether it's across the country or around the world.

Third: sustainability. The Canadian Forces must have the means to support and sustain its operations for as long as they are needed and sustainability is not something that should come at the expense of quality of life and terms of service of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and women.

And fourth: usability. Not only do we need versatile forces and the ability to deploy them, we also need forces that we can actually use. We've seen recently that a robust special forces capability is more useful and applicable to the types of operations we're now facing and can expect to face in the future. If we haven't used the capability over the past 10 years, we must ask ourselves serious questions about whether that capability will be needed in the coming decade.

Together these four elements are crucial - crucial because they will ensure continued credibility and ultimately Canada and Canadians want and need credible Canadian Forces.

I'd like to speak for a few moments about pride and how proud I am of the men and women of the Canadian Forces. They do an absolutely superb job of protecting the safety and security of Canadians and they're this country's best ambassadors abroad. They are indisputably the original Team Canada.

While the forces have been through some lean years of late, I truly believe that we're in the process of turning the corner. Real and significant progress has been made in terms of important equipment acquisitions, training and doctrine, the quality of life of our people, leadership, education and professional development and in terms of some additional funding that has been

added to the defence budget. This is one of the reasons why the review is important: so that we can maintain the momentum and the progress in the years to come.

Of course another reason is that it will ensure that Canadians get the most -- another reason is that it will ensure that Canadians get the most out of their defence dollars. The Speech from the Throne included a commitment to ensure that defence spending reflects this country's priorities, to ensure that every tax dollar is carefully invested to achieve maximum results for Canadians.

I have been very clear in saying that I believe defence requires additional resources. And I will certainly be emphasizing this message to my cabinet colleagues in the days and weeks to come. But it's vital. In fact, it's absolutely critical that we look at defence spending in the context of the ongoing review. I can't emphasize strongly enough how important it is that we have a coherent and comprehensive defence plan to guide our decisions in the future. With this plan, we'll be able to gain and maintain widespread public support for defence and we'll also be able to ensure that our top defence priorities are priorities for the government as well.

I'm currently working on a plan with my officials from the department, and my colleagues from Foreign Affairs, International Trade and International Development are working on theirs. We meet weekly to coordinate the review process, a process that will be completed this autumn. A parliamentary committee will then consider its results and offer Canadians the opportunity to make their views known.

As we wait for the outcome of the review, however, the government will not stand still on important issues. We can't put our obligations to Canadians and to our international allies and partners on hold. The Speech from the Throne made it clear that, "Some things need not wait for the review because they are urgently needed or because the right course of action is already clear." We're therefore moving forward on a number of important fronts.

Tout d'abord, nous nous assurons que les Forces canadiennes continuent d'avoir les moyens de contribuer de façon significative à la paix, à la sécurité internationale. Cela implique notamment que nous leur donnions d'équipement et la formation dont elles ont besoin pour faire leur travail.

The Throne Speech, for example, committed this government to finding a replacement for our Sea King helicopters and to acquiring new armoured vehicles, the MGS Mobile Gun System for the army. We're also looking at the feasibility of moving ahead as quickly as possible with some other major procurement projects.

Second, we're actively addressing the sustainability issue. The Prime Minister and I have both acknowledge that the Canadian Forces are stretched. We know that we're asking a lot of our men and women in uniform - in some cases, too much. So we're now identifying ways to relieve the pressure on our troops. For example, like many of our NATO allies, we'll be reducing our commitment to the stabilization force in Bosnia in the coming weeks. We're also giving the navy a well-deserved rest after its extraordinary effort in Operation Apollo. Third, we're continuing to transform the Canadian Forces into a 21st century force. I know this will be the main focus of General Henault's address to you later today so I certainly won't steal his thunder. Finally, as we proceed with our review, we'll continue to contribute to international peace and security, most

notably through our mission in Afghanistan. And we'll continue to protect Canadians and assist in securing the North American continent.

I'd like to say a few words about our current mission in Afghanistan, a mission that I recently visited along with the Chief of Defence Staff and former Prime Minister Joe Clark. Just before I arrived in the Afghan theatre, I took part in a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Munich. During that meeting, several of my counterparts specifically sought me out to tell me just how valuable Canada's contribution in Afghanistan was. Of course, as minister, I knew that our involvement was significant. But the extent and the importance of our participation in Afghanistan became much more real to me at a personal level when I saw the situation on the ground.

Let me tell you, our men and women are doing a wonderful job. I wish every Canadian could see what I saw. Certainly every Canadian can be proud of their efforts. In Kabul, I had the opportunity to speak with our troops and to see them in action. They told me about what they are doing on a daily basis and about how they're received by the local population. And as I sat in the back of an Iltis jeep that was patrolling the streets of Kabul, I was able to see for myself what I'd been told: the people of Kabul are very welcoming and very grateful for our presence. Thanks to Canada and thanks to all the nations helping to secure and rebuild the country, the Afghan people have hope for the first time in a long time.

When I met with President Karzai and other Afghan leaders, they expressed their gratitude for our commitment and our contribution. President Karzai made it quite clear to me that Canada was making a difference in the lives of average Afghan citizens and he insisted that I relay that message to Canadians.

By being present in Afghanistan, we're doing our part as a responsible member of the international community and as a dependable NATO ally. The Canadian contingent currently represents about 40 percent of the total NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

And, as you probably know, a Canadian, Lieutenant-General Rick Hillier is now in command of this mission. This appointment of a Canadian to such a prestigious and important position speaks to the respect the Canadian Forces have earned within NATO and the larger international community. There's no doubt in my mind that General Hillier will do an outstanding job and that he'll make Canada, the Canadian Forces and, of course, the people of his home province of Newfoundland very proud.

I have the same level of confidence in each of the 2,000 troops deployed as part of Operation Athena as well as those working hard to support them. These men and women are some of the most dedicated and professional people I've ever seen and they have some of the most advanced and reliable capabilities in all of ISAF.

For example, our new ISTAR capabilities are allowing our commanders on the ground to see and sense all aspects of their environment and to gather valuable intelligence. Our Coyote reconnaissance vehicles are providing our troops with an excellent all-weather, day-and-night observation capability. Our state-of-the-art night vision equipment allows our soldiers to function

during the darkest of nights as if it were daylight. Our tactical unmanned aerial vehicles and artillery-hunting radar add significant cutting edge capabilities that amount to a pretty impressive contribution by Canada. And of course our troops will soon be able to conduct their patrols on the streets of Kabul using new G-Wagen vehicles.

And one more point, those that have been in Afghanistan will certainly agree with me when I say that we have the best camp in the entire country. The Theatre Activation Team that built Camp Julien did an outstanding job. When the troops took possession of the base, everything was ready and they were able to immediately begin their mission without worrying about housekeeping matters. So there's no doubt in my mind that our troops in Afghanistan have the equipment and facilities they need to do the job.

When former Prime Minister Joe Clark saw this as well, he was equally impressed. And let me tell you, for a Liberal and an old Tory to agree on anything, you know it must be true.

One of the things that distinguishes Afghanistan from previous Canadian Forces missions is the unprecedented cooperation we're seeing between the Canadian Forces, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency. In fact, from the standpoint of future Canadian international engagements, Afghanistan is serving as a model for the government's 3D approach to international affairs - the three Ds being defence, diplomacy and development. In addition to our military commitment, the government has opened an embassy in Kabul and CIDA is contributing 250 million to reconstruction and development projects. We believe it's truly important for Canada to help Afghanistan. Peace and security in that country will translate into increased stability both in the region and internationally and I truly believe that it will contribute to the safety and security of Canadians. That is why we'll continue to support Afghanistan and work with the international community and the Afghan people to provide the conditions necessary for democratic development.

This is also why we've decided to stay in Afghanistan after August which is when our 2,000 troops in Kabul are set to return to Canada. As we speak, the exact nature of this continued presence is being refined here in Canada and amongst our allies and announcements are expected within the next few weeks. What is certain is that our presence will continue to be meaningful. It'll continue to contribute to the peace and security of Afghanistan and it'll continue to be valued by our NATO allies. We will not turn our backs on NATO, on Afghanistan or on the Afghan people. This is not our way. And Canada's support for NATO and for what it's doing in Afghanistan is critical for the future of the alliance. If NATO fails in Afghanistan, it will have failed to adapt to a new security environment. As U.S. Senator Dick Lugar said recently, "NATO has a choice of either going out of area or going out of business." Afghanistan is the alliance's first mission outside the Euro-Atlantic area and failure is simply not an option.

In addition to contributing to security and stability in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world, the Canadian Forces are also active on the continental and domestic scene. The new government has made better relations with the United States one of our priorities. And the same coherent, sophisticated approach to international policy that will come out of the review will be applied to our dealings with the United States. As you know, defence relations with our southern neighbour are both effective and extensive. Most visible is our cooperation in the protection of our

continent through the North American Aerospace Defence Command, or Norad, and more recently the Binational Planning Group.

At the NATO meeting in Munich earlier this month, I met with U.S. Defence Secretary Rumsfeld. It was a very productive meeting and we addressed several issues related to continental security, namely the Binational Planning Group, maritime security and ballistic missile defence.

I'd like to say a few words on missile defence. As you know, in mid-January Secretary Rumsfeld and I exchanged letters of interest confirming that it's in the interests of both Canada and the United States to discuss cooperation in the ballistic missile defence of North America. I firmly believe that we, as a responsible government, must be prepared to look at a system designed to prevent a potential ballistic missile strike on North America and the unimaginable human tragedy that would result from such an attack. I also firmly believe that we cannot protect Canadian interests if we are not at the table when discussions involving the defence of our continent are taking place. This is not what responsible governments do. A final decision on Canadian participation in the missile defence system will be taken by our government only after discussions have been completed. And when the time comes, we'll take a principled decision based on our national interests and values.

Of course the Canadian Forces also continue to fulfill their responsibilities here at home and our involvement in the domestic sphere is about to be expanded. In the Throne Speech, the government announced that it will develop Canada's first National Security Policy to better address the new threats facing us. Together with the defence policy review, the new National Security Policy will help refine the roles the Canadian Forces and the reserves play in the protection of this country.

In the meantime, we're reinforcing the Canadian Forces' ability to assist government authorities in responding to domestic emergencies, most notably by increasing the Canadian Forces counterterrorism capabilities and our ability to protect Canadians against attacks using weapons of mass destruction.

In closing, ladies and gentlemen, the review of Canada's international policies, including our defence policy, will help us map out a strategy that will advance Canada's place in the world.

Les Forces canadiennes sont une institution nationale importante. Elles sont vitales à la protection de nos citoyens et de notre souveraineté et elles sont cruciales à notre place et à notre influence dans le monde.

The policy review will go a long way in determining the way ahead for the Canadian Forces and it will go a long way in ensuring that Canadians can remain proud of their army, navy and air force. As we wait the outcome of the review, however, we are not standing still. We're hard at work transforming the Canadian Forces into a 21st century military that will continue to make a difference internationally, continentally and domestically. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Moderator: Mr. Pratt has agreed to take some questions so if you would like to formulate your questions and step up to the microphone, that would be fine. First question on number one, General Addy.

Question: General Addy, Conference of Defence Associations. Mr. Minister, it's nice to see you there. My question is this: you said you discussed the nature of our presence in Afghanistan. And several days ago there was an article by someone called Lewis McKenzie who said that perhaps we should be looking at another realm of interest, in other words an offensive realm of hunting of the Taliban as we did at the outset of the Afghanistan mission. Can you tell us the future that you see for our mission in Afghanistan? Will it be that type of mission? Will it be a continuation of what we have? What kind of options are you looking at at this particular time?

Hon. David Pratt: Well, the Afghan mission is obviously changing and has changed over the course of the last couple of years. Right now many countries are looking at Provincial Reconstruction Teams, putting out numbers of soldiers, normally in most cases less than a hundred, into various areas to ensure stability in the hinterland outside Kabul. Now I think that certainly from my perspective these are extremely important initiatives. They are indispensable as far as ensuring the overall peace and security of Afghanistan. There are other issues that we have to deal with in Afghanistan, though, not the least of which is disarmament and of course the problem with the drug business and particularly the cultivation of poppies. These are going to present us with challenges over the next number of years. I think that Afghanistan, similar to Bosnia, is not going to be solved in the course of one, two, three or four years. In my view it's certainly a longer term project. There are, as it stands right now, significant security challenges I would say in the south and east of the country and these are going to have to be dealt with. I think the Americans and some of their other allies have made significant progress in Operation OEF and from that standpoint it's just a question of time before the remaining elements of the Taliban, HIG and Al-Qaeda are located and dealt with.

Where the operation goes from here, I think the Americans are certainly -- the Americans involved in Operation OEF are very interested in having a NATO command structure responsible for the overall mission in Afghanistan and I think from the Government of Canada's perspective, we would welcome that. There is some hesitation amongst some of the other allies at this point but I think we're moving in that direction over the course of the next few years. How long that will take is anybody's guess. I mean it's really hard to say at this point.

Having said that, as far as Canada is concerned, I think that we're going to be in a position, as I tried to indicate in my comments, to make a meaningful follow on contribution post August '04. We're not necessarily looking at PRTs at this moment. However, we've certainly not ruled that option out for the future. But I think it's safe to say that as far as the mission in Afghanistan is concerned and specifically as it relates to Kabul, there is still going to be a need for significant security in Kabul. I think General Leslie said a number of months ago that you know if you control Kabul, you don't necessarily control the rest of Afghanistan but you can't control the rest of Afghanistan unless you control Kabul. And there are indications as well I think that some of the darker elements in the country right now may be making their way into some of the cities and so from that standpoint security is going to continue to be a challenge.

So, as I say, I think it's important for Canada to be engaged. I think it's also important for us to, as far as the war on terrorism is concerned, the land-based war on terrorism, at least, that we concentrate our efforts in Afghanistan. I think that's where we can have the most impact. And, again, I can't emphasize this strongly enough, the Canadians have made a huge impact through ISAF on the ground in Afghanistan and I would certainly like to see that continue.

Moderator: Thank you, sir. Squadron Leader Logan.

Question: Yes, I've been standing here for the last 10 years I guess and have been hugely critical of the Minister of National Defence. I would like to tell you, sir, that I have no criticism for what you've done. I have the greatest respect for your knowledge of what the services need and how to go about it. I'm not too sure I have a question but I'll try and work up to one. (Laughter.)

Hon. David Pratt: I'll try and work up to an answer. (Laughter.)

Question: The military has been neglected for so long that if you dumped \$5 billion on the military in the next year, there is no possible way that they could handle it. I think we have serious problems in equipment, in rust-out, particularly in the air force, but I think one of the more critical problems is our losing of skilled people, not because they're leaving but because we keep dying. And I'm not too sure you can do much about that. But could you give me an idea of what the plans could be to stop the drain on skilled people to revive the skills and the army, the navy and the air force as well as slowly replacing the equipment because new equipment with no skilled maintenance is a waste of our time. If that's a question, I'll leave it to you.

Hon. David Pratt: Okay, well there's actually quite a bit in that question and I'm not sure I'll be able to respond to everything. But I don't think there's any doubt that there has been over the last number of years in particular but it's been a pattern over decades in terms of the decline in spending in the Canadian Forces as a percentage of GDP. Now how we get the spending right is going to be -- it's not going to be a matter that's going to be dealt with in one or two or I would even say three years. What has to happen -- and this is why I -- you know and I tried to emphasize this in my comments as well, this is why I think the policy review is so important because I think there's a recognition in the Canadian public that we have to do more. But you've got to have the plan first. You have to have that strategic plan that's going to carry you forward. And I might say as well, it's going to have to maintain the interest of the Canadian public to the point where their policy makers will say, look, this is something we want to do because it's important for the country. And that relates to things like, you know, making sure that we have the skills necessary within the forces and that we continue to build those skills and that we have a culture of learning in the forces that encourages people to, you know, to use the old saying, to be the best that they can be as far as, you know, working their trade and understanding what their role is and being part of that larger team. I think that's absolutely essential.

I think as well there's an appreciation that the international environment now is such that we can't be lulled into a sense of complacency that we're okay, you know, we've got the U.S. on our southern border and we've got a lot of snow to the north of us that will be the natural buffer and, you know, the sea will protect us on either coast as well. We're not in that mind set anymore. Domestic politics have become international politics and international politics have become

domestic politics. The world is a lot closer than it used to be. You know people talk about the death of distance and I think we're there as far as communications are concerned in terms of the whole globalization phenomenon. And we'd better be prepared for it. And that's one of the reasons why I'm so excited about this policy review and why I think that it's going to be absolutely critical not just from the standpoint of international peace and security and foreign policy but the larger picture.

You know one of the things that we've learned I think over the last 10 years and we're learning it again in terms of Haiti is that unless you go into a theatre of operations with a comprehensive view of what you want to accomplish, that you can put 2,000 troops in Haiti in the mid-'90s and be revisiting security in Haiti, you know, less than 10 years later. That's not a situation that we want to repeat. So this comprehensive approach I think in terms of linking the 3Ds is absolutely critical. We can't, you know, leave a country and think that because they've held one election that they're on the road to prosperity, human rights and good governance. That's not the situation that we face anymore and I think we have to work with our allies as well. It's not just up to Canada to try and accomplish these things. And maybe I'm getting a little off the topic. Did you want to bring me back on topic?

Question: No. I just wanted to tell you that I represent the Air Force Association here and we have 15, 20 thousand members and we'll support you to the absolute limit. Thanks.

Hon. David Pratt: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Microphone one is Brigadier Day from the British Defence Liaison Staff.

Question: Minister, NATO's transforming and you've already talked very clearly about NATO's new role in Afghanistan. But I wonder if you could also address Canada's response to the new NATO force structure in and particular NATO response forces?

Hon. David Pratt: I'm sorry, Brigadier, could you repeat the last part of that?

Question: I wonder if you could address Canada's response to the new NATO force structure and in particular to NATO response forces.

Hon. David Pratt: Well, certainly, you know, we've been very supportive of NATO over the years and the need for rapid reaction forces is something that has been planned for for some time and it seems that we've had difficulty in moving forward with those sorts of plans. You know there's been talk of the possibility of working with the British army as far as, you know, Canadian troops being involved in a British brigade as part of the rapid reaction capability. I think that that's absolutely essentially. What I think is also essential, though, is for countries across NATO to ensure that as far as the Prague capabilities commitments are concerned that we pay very close attention to what's in those commitments because from the standpoint of nuclear, biological, chemical responses, from the standpoint of deployability, combat capability, all of these things are tremendously important. And you know the challenges that we're facing, though, is that as we absorb new members with different capabilities, it becomes more and more of a

challenge to herd all those cats and get them moving in the same direction. But I think, you know, from that standpoint Canada has a responsibility to try and ensure that we're paying very close attention to Prague capabilities commitments, that we're doing more from the standpoint of interoperability, to really put some substance to an issue that's had a lot of rhetoric in the past but not much in the way of action. So I'm hoping that we'll see some progress there.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Microphone two, would you please identify yourself?

Question: I was just wondering, you probably know a lot about this, Ottawa and Canada in general plays a major role in the banning and the removal of landmines. Especially here in Ottawa we sort of called for the creation of the Ottawa Treaty and in 1997 countries gathered in Ottawa to ban the production and the use of landmines. And right now with the role in Afghanistan we're seeing firsthand the effects of landmines. And I was just wondering, you mentioned good military relations with the United States. The United States did not sign the Ottawa Treaty in 1997 to ban the production of landmines. Is the military doing anything to sort of pressure or try to convince the United States to do this?

Hon. David Pratt: Well, that's largely being dealt with by the Department of Foreign Affairs. We don't have -- at Defence we don't have much in the way of traction on that particular issue. I think, you know, Canadian troops across the world have done a tremendous amount in terms of demining. For that matter, so has the United States. Unfortunately, they haven't seen fit to sign that treaty but that's not to say they haven't been involved in demining efforts themselves. There's a significant amount of work that's being done in the United States on that issue.

Moderator: Our last question, microphone one.

Question: Mr. Minister, my name is Tony Anderson, an independent consultant here in Ottawa. You've spoken of the degree of integration and cooperation among you and your colleagues in the foreign policy and defence review that's with International Trade and International Development. I was just wondering whether you could say a few words as to whether you see a need for similar integration and cooperation with the review of domestic security and homeland defence. And we've seen I think in the newspaper recently coverage of some initiatives that the department has taken in that regard. And if you see the need for that sort of integration, what sort of mechanisms are being considered to ensure that ---

Hon. David Pratt: I'm sorry, I'm not hearing some of your comments. I'm picking up bits and pieces.

Question: My question is in line with the integration of foreign policy and defence review with International Trade and International Development whether there's a need for similar integration with homeland security and what your colleague Ms. McLellan is doing in that regard. And I know that the department there has been some press coverage of some initiatives the department is taking in that regard. And I was just wondering your view on the need for integrating with that other review and what the mechanisms might be to do so.

Hon. David Pratt: Yeah, no, absolutely. We've got a foot in both camps that way in terms of the international policy review and the National Security Policy. And you know I think there's a lot that's being done right now as far as the reserves are concerned. For instance, in the whole area of nuclear, biological, chemical response, things like, you know, increasing the skills of the reserves in the area of things like geomatics, even stuff like information warfare. I mean there's some really interesting things happening that way but defence -- as I say, defence does have a particular role there. I think our role is going to be increasing as well from the standpoint of the binational planning group and how we deal with maritime security both in the Great Lakes and off of both our coasts. There's a tremendous amount of cooperation that's taking place, for instance, in terms of transport, in terms of the Department of the Environment, Fisheries, Immigration, Customs. There is a whole lot of horizontality in this entire picture as far as national security is concerned, not the least of which is also things like intelligence and there's been some discussion of that recently. So I do see that happening. It's coming together. Madame McLellan -- I've been more focussed on the international policy review, certainly over the course of the last month or two. But Madame McLellan has got carriage of the National Security Policy and I am confident based on what I've heard and seen to this point that the role for the forces, as I tried to indicate in my comments, is going to be even larger as it relates to homeland security. And I think we're going to see some very interesting products come out of this policy review process on that front.

Moderator: Minister, on behalf of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute and all of our participants in our 20th annual seminar, thank you very, very much for coming today and for addressing this assemblage and we look forward to seeing you at other times during the meeting if you're available and certainly tomorrow night at our dinner. Thank you very much indeed. (Applause.)