



NATO
A BRIEF BACKGROUND



THE BEGINNING OF NATO

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was **founded in April 4, 1949**
- It was established in the aftermath of WWII and the beginning of the Cold War, to secure peace and safety through the mutual support of other nations
- NATO was Canada's **first peacetime military alliance**



Source: The
Canadian
Encyclopedia

NATO'S 12 FOUNDING NATIONS

- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- France
- Iceland
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- The United Kingdom
- The United States



Source: NATO

THE NATO ALLIANCE

NATO serves its members through political, military and economic means

- **Political** – promotes democratic values through consultation and cooperation on defence and security related issues to solve problems, build trust and prevent conflict
- **Military** – if peaceful resolutions fail, NATO has the military power to undertake crisis management operations under the collective defence clause, or *Article 5 of the Washington Treaty*
- **Economic** – NATO further ties together trading partners, providing economic and social benefits to its members



IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF NATO – ARTICLE 2

- Also known as the “**Canadian Article**”
- Initiated by former Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent and former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, who was External Affairs Minister at this time
- Article 2 summons alliance members to improve themselves and each other politically, socially and economically
- The argument behind Article 2 was there must be development of a genuine North Atlantic community if the alliance was to endure

Article 2

“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 wellbeing. 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 Washington Treaty



From left to right: Lester B. Pearson, Louis St. Laurent and Paul Martin

IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF NATO – ARTICLE 5

- Article 5, from the Washington Treaty states that a direct attack on one member country shall be considered an attack on all member nations, thus will be dealt with this sentiment in mind
- Invoked for the first and only time after September 11 attacks in the United States, where troops were led to Afghanistan under the NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

Article 5

“The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.” – Article 5, The Washington Treaty



NATO TODAY

- Has grown from 11 to 28 members
- Approximately 138,000 personnel are engaged in missions around the world
- 18,000 are military personnel
- NATO has engaged in 17 operations since establishment
- NATO has current operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and the Mediterranean

