

professional forces in Europe and in Canada at their high level of training, equipment and operational readiness.

Arising out of the decision to close one of the three air-bases which we occupy in Germany (Zweibrucken), we had planned to reduce the aircraft of our air division by approximately 20 per cent. However, we felt that, until there has been a better opportunity for the Canadian Government to assess the aftermath of the Czech crisis, both in the light of the results of this meeting and in the light of our own review of defence policy, it would be prudent to defer a final decision on our part as to whether or not the Air Division should be maintained at its present levels or reduced. This will not affect the decision to close down Zweibrucken.

The Minister of National Defence underlined the progressive qualitative improvement of our forces in all three environments, regular and reserve, and asserted that Canada continues to believe in collective security.

MINING ON INDIAN LANDS

Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, has announced new regulations governing the development of mines on Indian lands, which provide for a more active part by Indian band councils in the management of the mineral resources on their reserves. Indian advisory councils of the provinces concerned were consulted early during the drafting of the provisions and gave their approval for the policy changes.

The new rules provide for the granting of leases and permits of mineral rights on the basis of negotiated terms between a mining company and the band council. Mining specialists of the Department of Indian Affairs will act as advisers to the Indian councils. Where several companies are interested in undisposed mining rights, they will be open to competitive offers from the companies. Acquisition of rights by staking claims was discontinued in 1961 in favour of disposal by competitive tender. The new provision for disposal of mining rights by negotiated agreement will not only provide opportunity for the Indian councils to take part in decisions affecting their mineral resources, but mining companies will probably favour this method of acquisition where they do not wish to disclose their area of interest to competitors.

ACREAGE RENTAL HALVES

Another incentive for mining companies to explore the potential of Indian lands is the reduction of basic acreage rentals for exploratory permits. These are now half the rates provided under the old regulations. Other provisions to stimulate exploration include broader allowances for grouping of permits and leases for development and the deletion of the rule that leaseholders must be Canadian.

Indian reserves in the Precambrian region will be most widely affected by the new policy. Of the

half million acres of Indian lands in the Precambrian area of Ontario, about 350,000 acres are composed of greenstone and sedimentary rocks favourable for metallic mineral development. Another 30,000 acres of promising mining lands are in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Prospects also exist for Indian mining developments under the new regulations in the Appalachian region of the Maritimes and the Sedimentary Basin in the Prairie Provinces. The regulations do not apply to Indian lands in British Columbia, which are administered under provincial statute.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced the following diplomatic appointments:

Mr. J.J. McCardle, who has been head of the Defence Liaison (2) Division in the Department of External Affairs, to become Ambassador to Ireland. He replaces Mr. E.W.T. Gill, who will be retiring later this year following a long and successful career in the public service in Canada and abroad.

Mr. D.W. Munro, at present head of the Commonwealth Division of the Department of External Affairs, to be Ambassador to Costa Rica, with accreditation to Nicaragua and Honduras. He succeeds Mr. A.J. Hicks, who will be retiring after a distinguished career in the public service that began in 1928.

Mr. A.P. Bissonnet, Director of the Manpower Division, Treasury Board, to become Ambassador to Indonesia. He replaces Mr. W.G.M. Olivier who has returned to Ottawa.

Mr. Marc Baudouin, at present head of the Co-ordination Division of the Department of External Affairs, to be Ambassador to the Congo (Kinshasa). He replaces Mr. J.C.G. Brown, who has been appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Cyprus.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

The 33,017 births recorded in provincial offices during September brought the total for the first nine months of 1968 to 277,375, a decrease of 2.2 per cent from 288,632 in September 1967. Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia reported increases. There were 20,818 marriages registered in September, compared to 18,503 in the same month of 1967. The total for the first three quarters of 1968 was 123,537, 4.2 percent above the figure in the corresponding period of last year, with increases reported in Newfoundland, Quebec and the four provinces in the West. During September, 12,430 deaths were recorded, compared to 11,687 in September 1967. For the first nine months of the year, deaths totalled 116,466, 4.2 percent above those in the corresponding period of last year, with Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick reporting decreases.