

It was almost a year before another Supreme Commander was appointed for one of the other three major regions, the Atlantic Ocean Region, and it is, therefore, not surprising that the impression developed that General Eisenhower was the military head of all NATO forces.^x This is not, in fact, the case--his command is limited to Europe. The Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic (SACLANT), is Admiral McCormick, U.S.N., whose headquarters for controlling the protection of the vital sea communications between North America and Europe has been established at Norfolk, Virginia. He likewise, is assisted by a staff drawn from the NATO countries contributing forces to his command, and in this organization Canadian forces and personnel play a proportionately larger role than in European Command arrangements.

The Canada--United States region, the other major strategic area envisaged in the plans, has no organized command, nor is one contemplated for the time being. Nevertheless, the defence plans in this area are continuously under study by the Canada--United States regional planning group.

The Standing Group - The Supreme Commanders are under the orders of the Standing Group from whom they receive strategic and political guidance. The Standing Group, as its name implies, is a permanent body on which the Chiefs of Staff of the three major contributors to NATO--the United States, the United Kingdom, and France--are represented. It is located in Washington.

A Supreme Commander is not, however, cut off from contact with the NATO members who are supplying forces to his command. He has direct access to national Chiefs of Staff on matters concerning their forces and, as necessary, may also approach the Ministers of Defence and Heads of Governments. In order to maintain close liaison between SACEUR and national military organizations, members have established liaison Missions at the headquarters of the Supreme Commander, Europe, and it is expected similar liaison will be maintained at the headquarters of the Supreme Commander, Atlantic.

Many of the problems before the Standing Group particularly during the planning and organization period, directly involve non-Standing Group members or their forces. Consequently, it was found desirable to set up a Committee of Military Representatives to keep non-Standing Group members in constant touch with developments. This committee consists of representatives of the Chiefs of Staff of all member nations.

The Military Committee - The Standing Group is not, however, the senior military organ of the alliance. That is the Military Committee, on which each member nation is represented by one of its Chiefs of Staff. In order to maintain the equality of representation, which is fundamental to the Organization, provision is made for Iceland, where there is no military organization, to be represented by a civilian on the Military Committee. The Military Committee is the supreme military authority in NATO exercising this authority under the general supervision of the North Atlantic Council, to whom it gives military advice and from whom it receives political guidance which is passed on by the Standing Group to Supreme

^xGeneral Eisenhower resigned his command effective June 1, 1952, and General Ridgway was nominated by the President of the United States and appointed by the Council to succeed him.