

With its sovereignty fully restored, the Federal Republic of Germany has now started to take steps to make a significant contribution to the defensive forces of the alliance.

3. Military Developments

The basis for defence planning and preparations by the NATO military authorities remained throughout the year the report of the Military Committee which was approved by the Council in December 1954. In the face of an undiminished military threat to the security of its members, the Council maintained its resolution to build for peace on solid foundations of unity and strength.

Canada continued in 1955 to support NATO with contributions of armed forces to the major NATO commands. The First Canadian Infantry Brigade, which was stationed in the Soest area of Germany, has been replaced on completion of its two-year tour of duty by the Second Canadian Infantry Brigade. The Canadian air contribution of twelve jet fighter squadrons to Allied Command Europe remained unchanged. The Royal Canadian Navy had 43 ships earmarked for Allied Command Atlantic, to be used in the defence of the Canada—United States' area and for the protection of convoys.

From October 10 to 12, a conference of NATO defence ministers was held in Paris to discuss with the military authorities the current military problems of and requirements for the alliance. Mr. Campney represented Canada at this meeting.

4. Mutual Aid

The Canadian Mutual Aid Programme continued in 1955 to provide assistance in the form of military equipment, aircrew training, contributions to NATO common infra-structure, and contributions to the costs of NATO budgets. In view of the greater ability of the European NATO countries to provide for the most urgent requirements of European defence, and in the light of the growing requirements for the air defence of North America, the size of the Mutual Aid Programme was smaller in the fiscal year 1955-56 than in the previous fiscal year. The total appropriation for this purpose in 1955-56 was \$175,000,000.

5. Non-military Activities

An important new development for NATO took place in July 1955, when for the first time representative parliamentarians from all fifteen NATO countries met together in Paris to discuss the activities of the Organization and the role that might be played by members of parliaments in furthering its work. The initiative in calling this meeting was taken by parliamentarians themselves, and in particular by members of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association in close collaboration with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Norwegian Parliament. An opportunity was thus provided for about 175 parliamentarians to obtain at first hand an impression of the Organization's activities and to exchange views on the common problems of the community. The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution inviting the speakers of the various parliaments to send delegations to a similar meeting each year.