

GOVERNMENT



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Equipment Pressing Need For NATO, Mr. Claxton Reports: Ottawa, Dec. 21 (CP) --

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization needs more and new equipment rather than additional manpower, Mr. Claxton said today. Therefore, he added, Canada will spend a greater proportion of her NATO contribution next year for equipment and supplies out of new production.

There will be no increase in Canada's total contribution next year, the Minister said. It will be about the same as this year's outlay - about \$300,000,000. And there will be no additions to Canadian military forces in Europe.

In a 1,200-word statement reviewing decisions of the NATO council meeting in Paris, from which he returned Friday, Mr. Claxton said chief items of equipment to be supplied by Canada next year will be Sabre jet fighters, T-33 Silver Star jet trainers, minesweepers, electronic and wireless equipment, ammunition and explosives.

Canada also will train 1,200 air crew for NATO during each of the next three years. That is about the number now being trained.

Noting that agreement had been reached on common small arms ammunition for Belgium, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, Mr. Claxton said "it is hoped it will soon be followed by agreement on a new fully-automatic rifle.

"If this results, we would probably go into production of the rifle and round in Canada, and their introduction would go on progressively over a number of years."

Mr. Claxton said arrangements have been completed with French contractors for construction of married quarters and schools and Metz, Marville and Gros Tenquin, the three RCAF stations in France. The fighter wing now based at North Luffenham, Eng., will move to Marville next year....

Mr. Claxton visited all 10 major RCAF and Army units in Europe.

On the NATO council meeting itself, Mr. Claxton said:

"Reports showed steady progress in the buildup of the North Atlantic forces, in quantity and still more, in quality.

"Today they are stronger than they were a year ago and are strong enough to make an aggressor think twice about taking them on.

"Both because of this buildup of forces and also because of some decrease in international tension, there was an emphasis at this meeting on the desirability of our having a good look at 'the long haul' and of adjusting plans, programmes and strategy to make the best use of the forces already in existence today or provided for in the agreed programmes."

Brig. Rockingham's New Appointment: Ottawa, Dec. 21 (CP) -- Appointment of Brig.

J.M. Rockingham, 42, former commander of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Korea, as commander of the newly formed 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade, Valcartier, Que., was announced today by Army headquarters.

Brig. Rockingham is to arrive in Canada soon from the United Kingdom where he has completed a year's course at the Imperial Defence College. He will assume his new appointment shortly after his return.

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