



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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AIR TRAINING PLAN

Statement by Mr. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, made in the House of Commons on March 21, 1951.

Mr. Speaker, hon. members will recall that, in the statement I made on February 5^{*}, I said that the government had offered to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to train additional aircrew. The number proposed was 1,100 per annum, which would bring the total to be trained for NATO and the United Kingdom something over 1,300 per annum.

We have now received the recommendation of the Standing Group that all the places available in respect of this additional number up to December 31 of this year should be allocated to the United Kingdom. After that the allocation will be reconsidered.

At present our plans provide for a build-up to an annual output of aircrew of over 3,000. That represents an increase of six times the figure for 1950 and fifteen times the figure for the previous year.

This will be accompanied by a fivefold increase in groundcrew training facilities.

Administrative establishments will also be increased though not to the same extent.

This will require the reopening of a number of airfields. During the war we had a total of 56 airfields used for training either under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan or other plans.

We already have air training schools and operational stations or other units in operation or under construction at Goose Bay, and, to a very limited extent, Torbay in Newfoundland; at Summerside in Prince Edward Island; at Dartmouth and Greenwood in Nova Scotia; at Moncton, to a limited extent, and Chatham in New Brunswick; at Bagotville, St. Hubert, St. Johns and Dorval in Quebec; at Rockcliffe, Uplands, Arnprior, Trenton, Downsview, North Bay, Centralia, Clinton and Aylmer in Ontario; at Winnipeg, Gimli and Rivers in Manitoba; at Edmonton, Calgary and Suffield in Alberta; and at Patricia Bay, again to a limited extent, and Vancouver in British Columbia. There are, of course, other headquarters and depots in addition.

* See Statements and Speeches Series No. 51/5.