

Ocean. The Channel Committee in London co-ordinates defence preparations in the narrow waters bordering France, Belgium, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Under it is a Commander-in-Chief with headquarters at Portsmouth. For North America, there is the Canada-U.S. Regional Planning Group, with headquarters in Washington, which develops and recommends to the Military Committee, through the Standing Group, plans for the defence of the Canada-United States Region.

### **The Annual Review**

Let us see how these various bodies on both the civilian and military sides work together on important problems with which the Organization has to deal in building up the defensive strength of the West. A good example is to be found in the process of the Annual Review of member countries defence plans, which provides the means whereby the organization as a whole can take stock of the progress made in the collective defence effort and, accordingly, make plans for the build-up of forces in future years.

Responsible under the Council for co-ordinating this work is the Annual Review Committee, one of the most active and important of the Council's subordinate bodies. In order to obtain the necessary information on the national defence plans, the international staff, under the guidance of the Annual Review Committee and in collaboration with the NATO military agencies, draws up a questionnaire for completion by member governments. At the same time, the supreme commanders take stock of the position of the forces under their command and prepare recommendations for changes in those forces designed to improve their effectiveness. When the replies of member governments to the questionnaire and the military recommendations have been received, the Annual Review Committee, the international staff and the NATO military agencies are in a position to examine the collective defence effort of NATO and to reconcile the military requirements with the national, political and economic capabilities.

In this process, various points of view are considered: national interests are represented in the Annual Review Committee; general political, economic and production considerations are contributed by the international staff; and military considerations are contributed by the Supreme Commands and the Standing Group. The results of this process of stock-taking and reconciliation in terms of recommended levels of forces for the NATO countries are embodied in a report which the Annual Review Committee prepares and the permanent representatives submit to the Council in ministerial session. The ministers in adopting decisions on this report also have before them the comments of the Military Committee.

### **Infrastructure Programme**

Another phase of the Organization's work which illustrates the way in which the various bodies work together is the "infrastructure" programme. The initial judge of NATO forces requirements for their common use in the way of fixed installations such as airfields, communications and radar facilities is the NATO commander concerned. These "infrastructure" requirements are therefore submitted in the first place by the supreme commanders to the Standing Group, which in turn reviews them in the context of overall NATO military planning. Consideration must also be given, however, to the technical