



AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

Not for Publication -- Not for Distribution in Canada

Vol. 7, No. 162

Thursday, September 1, 1949.

Atlantic Treaty Meeting: The Department of External Affairs announced on August 31 that it has been agreed that the first meeting of the Council established by the North Atlantic Treaty will convene in Washington on September 17, 1949. It is expected that the Foreign Ministers of all the Parties to the Treaty will attend. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, will attend on behalf of Canada. Mr. Pearson will probably be accompanied by Mr. A.D.P. Heeney, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Canada - U.S. Exercise: Canadian and United States troops will conduct a joint winter training exercise in the Yukon and Alaska next January and February.

The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, said on September 1 that the exercise, designated "Cross-Index" for planning and operational purposes, will be local in nature and on a comparatively small scale. It will be a continuation of the combined training program carried out by both countries during the past few years.

Present plans call for the United States Army and Air Force to join the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force in peacetime simulated combat culminating in movements against a theoretical enemy.

The Canadian Army and the United States Army will each provide a one-battalion combat team including infantry -- some of which will be employed in a parachute role -- artillery, engineers, signals and other supporting arms and services.

The Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force will combine to provide fighter cover, ground attack forces, and bomber, reconnaissance and transport aircraft. In addition to existing communications, mobile RCAF and USAF signals equipment will be used. Mobile air force radar and control centres will also be employed.

The exercise will take place in the Whitehorse area.

The United States will name the overall commander of the exercise and will provide the allied forces commander and the allied army commander. Canada will provide the allied air force commander.

Canadian Army Engineers are already in the Whitehorse area and are now being joined by advance detachments of U.S. Army Engineers and service troops who will prepare facilities for the combat elements. The latter are not expected to move northward until January after preparatory training at camps in their respective countries.

The majority of troops of both countries will be flown from concentration areas to the exercise area and the remainder will travel over the Alaska Highway, involving in some cases a total one-way travel distance of more than 3,000 miles.

"The objectives of the exercise," Mr. Claxton said, "are to develop procedures, doctrine and techniques for the employment of combined Canada-United States army and air forces operating in the far north."

(over)