

has been appointed to head the army organization which will be responsible for the role which was first referred to in the defence report issued in April.

In the event of attack on Canada, communication with all parts of the country would be essential. In consequence, arrangements are being made to ensure that if the main communication facilities should be interrupted, alternative means will be available.

On September 1 the Department of National Defence will assume full responsibility for the operation of the warning system in Canada. This will involve obtaining the information from the appropriate source and transmitting the warning in the shortest possible time to provincial authorities, probable target areas, military headquarters and installations, and all segments of population likely to be affected. Warning will deal with the threat of direct attack and will also provide information on location of nuclear explosions and resulting radioactive fall-out which may follow such an attack. Detailed studies are now under way aimed at providing the fastest and most effective system within our capability.

The Canadian army has organized a number of mobile support columns within the regular army and the militia. These columns will be based on major units and training establishments in the regular army. In the militia they will be based on groups of units. Each column contains rescue companies and such other elements as will permit them to perform re-entry and rescue tasks, as well as supplying manpower for maintenance of law and order and such other internal operations as may be necessary under conditions of war. Mobile support columns will be grouped into task forces.

Rescue training sets are being issued to these mobile columns. Provision is being made for additional equipment to be provided early in 1960. Requirements for communications equipment for national survival have been established and arrangements for procurement are being made on a priority basis. The requirement for radiation detection equipment has been established. Industry, however, is as yet unable to meet the standards in all cases. Action is being taken on a priority basis to obtain suitable equipment as it becomes available, and it is expected that substantial deliveries will be made this year. Some radiac equipment suitable for training has been issued.

Detailed examination of other items of equipment normally held by the army is being carried out with a view to providing adequate scaling for survival operations for all troops involved.