

After training more than 3,800 aircrew, at a cost of \$328 million to date, Canada's NATO air training programme is being reviewed and probably will be adjusted downward starting in 1958.

The original plan was to provide trained pilots and navigators to build up the frontline strength of aircrew in the NATO countries. This has now been achieved and the training of aircrew for replacement purposes can now be taken over by most of the NATO nations themselves.

Besides what has been done to train NATO aircrew under Canada's mutual aid programme, this programme since its inception in 1950 has done much to strengthen the defences of our allies in Europe. As their own capability increases, our programme of aid is being scaled downward. More and more the equipment we are supplying is from current production rather than from existing stock.

The value of mutual aid to our NATO partners now totals more than \$1,274 million. This includes, as an example, the provision of more than 600 modern fighter planes and more than 1,000 aircraft engines...

### Forces in Being

I might remind the committee that NATO places great emphasis on forces in being. This has been asserted again and again by NATO leaders.

In 1939 we were quite unready for war. Today we have in full fighting trim an army brigade and an air division in Europe and at home a mobile striking force and three infantry brigade groups in the Army; an effective air defence system and other supporting units with more than 3,000 planes in the Air Force; and a Navy with 40 fighting ships at sea and a still greater number under construction or conversion or in reserve...

As more and more the requirements of modern war tend to become inter-related, the Department of National Defence, through the co-ordinating efforts of the chairman, chiefs of staff and the joint staff organization, has brought the three services into ever closer working relationship. More than 900 officer cadets are in training at our three tri-service colleges.

It is certain that this trend towards a more unified approach to the defence problem must continue if all the services are to make their maximum contribution to the defence effort and most efficiently manage the defence systems that they are best fitted for. As we move into the use of guided missiles it is more important than ever to have the Navy, Army and Air Force in close co-operation, agreeing on their particular fields of endeavour...

The U.S.S.R., by shifting emphasis from quantity to quality, also seems to be working towards more streamlined and professional forces.

For some time now Canada's armed forces, I believe, have had a higher percentage of fully trained personnel than those of most other countries. In recent years, without undue difficulty, and without lowering our selectively high standards of recruiting, we have been able to maintain our forces at about planned size, and we have been able to persuade a relatively high percentage of our recruits to make the services their career—a most important factor in the build-up of first class regular forces...