

The NATO Science Committee

THE formation of the Science Committee stems from a recommendation made in 1956, in the Report of the Committee of Three on Non-Military Co-operation in NATO, that a conference be held for the following purposes:

- (a) to exchange information and views concerning the most urgent problems of the recruitment, training and employment of scientists, engineers, and technicians, and the best means, both long-term and short-term, of solving these problems;
- (b) to foster closer relations among the participants with a view to continued exchange of experience and stimulation of constructive work in member countries; and
- (c) to propose specific measures for future international co-operation in this field, through NATO or other international organizations.

Subsequently, the NATO Council established an *ad hoc* working group, which after study of the report by the Committee of Three, recommended that a conference be called but that it be preceded by the formation of a preparatory task force to determine the agenda, etc. The task force submitted a report that surveyed the problems, introduced consideration of defence-science aspects, and recommended to the NATO Council the establishment of a Scientific Committee of the Council and the appointment of a Scientific Adviser.

Creation of Committee

This proposal was approved in December 1957 by the NATO heads of government, who decided to appoint a Science Adviser and to establish a Science Committee for the purpose of promoting national and collective efforts by the NATO countries in the scientific field. Although the report of the Committee of Three concerned non-military co-operation, considerations of defence science were introduced by the task force. Consequently, the interests of the Science Committee comprise both non-military and military scientific questions.

Since its first meeting in April 1958, the Science Committee has launched, with the approval of the Council, a Science Fellowship Programme, an Advanced Study Institute Programme and a Research Grants Programme. The following is a brief description of these programmes, in which Canada participates:

- (a) *Science Fellowship Programme* — The NATO Science Fellowship Programme was approved by the Council in 1958. The United States has pledged itself to pay 50 per cent of the costs during the first four years with the other participating countries sharing the rest. The first-year programme entailed an expenditure of \$1 million (U.S.), which was to increase by this amount in each of the next three years. However, the Council set the level of the second-year (current) programme at \$1.75 million. The Science Adviser has suggested that the third-year programme (which could