

SERVICE CHIEFS VISIT EUROPE: Lt.-Gen. G.G. Simonds, Chief of the General Staff, sailed from New York April 14 to begin a three-week visit to Army and Air Force bases in France and Germany, it was announced.

In Paris, Lt.-Gen. Simonds will participate in a SHAPE exercise, from April 26 to 30, which will involve senior NATO commanders.

The Chief of the General Staff sailed aboard the liner Queen Mary which is scheduled to reach Cherbourg, France, on April 19. Lt.-Gen. Simonds first will visit Headquarters of the RCAF's 1st Air Division then spend two or three days touring air stations in France and Germany.

Following the SHAPE exercise, he will travel to Germany to spend several days in the Soest and Soltau areas with the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade.

Lt.-Gen. Simonds is expected back in Canada about May 11.

Vice-Admiral E.R. Mainguy, Chief of the Naval Staff, will leave Ottawa April 20 by air for the United Kingdom, where he will visit HMCS Niobe, Canadian naval headquarters in London, and the British Admiralty prior to going to Paris to take part in the one-week exercise at SHAPE.

Vice-Admiral Mainguy will return to Ottawa May 8.

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NATO MILITARY AID: The Canadian Army will ship military supplies to four more European countries this month under terms of the Mutual Aid Programme of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Army equipment will be sent to the Netherlands, Portugal, Norway and Denmark during April.

The shipments will include 300 wireless sets and maintenance equipment for the sets; a quantity of waterproof truck covers for the Portuguese Army; vehicle spare parts for the Norwegian Army; practice ammunition, trucks and spare parts for the Royal Danish Army, and a small shipment of tools and vehicles for the Royal Netherlands Army.

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HOUSING PROGRAMME: Construction of new dwelling units showed little overall change in February as compared with a year earlier, starts being slightly higher in number and completions virtually unchanged, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Starts were made on the construction of 3,057 residential units in February as compared with 2,789 a year earlier, and the completions numbered 6,116 compared with 6,161. In the two months, January-February, starts were down to 6,040 from 6,362, and completions were up to 14,431 from 12,262. This left 51,127 units under construction at the end of February as compared with 49,737 at the same time last year.

CAPITAL INFLOW: Trade in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries in January resulted in a capital inflow of \$6,300,000 compared with \$4,700,000 in December. This inflow was the largest of five consecutive sales balances recorded since September, 1953. The volume of trading was down when compared with the preceding month but was heavier than for any other month since June, 1953.

Transactions with the United States led to a sales balance of \$1,800,000, in contrast to a purchase balance of \$2,000,000 in December. In each month from July to December, 1953, United States residents on balance disposed of Canadian stocks, but in January they again added to their holdings. Repatriation of outstanding Canadian bonds and debentures also fell in January and the balance of trading with the United States in all Canadian securities changed from net purchases of \$8,300,000 in December to net sales of \$800,000 in January.

There were counter movements in trading in foreign securities, and the relatively large sales by Canadians of United States non-government bonds which occurred in December did not continue in January. Mainly as a result of this factor, the sales balance of foreign securities with the United States fell to \$1,000,000 from \$6,300,000 in December.

The sales balance with the United Kingdom in January was \$2,400,000, or less than half the December balance.

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CANADA-U.K. AIR TALKS: The Department of External Affairs announced on April 14 the conclusion of discussions on possible modifications of the Routes Schedule of the Canada-United Kingdom Air Services Agreement of August 19, 1949.

Discussions took place on a number of possible changes in the existing route patterns. These will now be considered by the Canadian and United Kingdom Governments.

The discussions, held at the request of the United Kingdom Government, took place in Ottawa from April 12 to 14. Mr. Lennox-Boyd, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, headed the United Kingdom Delegation which met with the Canadian Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, who was assisted by officials of the Air Transport Board and the Department of External Affairs.

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WESTERN ARCTIC STUDIES: An oceanographic-hydrographic study of the Canadian Western Arctic Ocean, initiated by Canada's Defence Research Board three years ago, will continue this summer for the fourth successive year. For the second season, the expedition will be a joint U.S.-Canadian operation with scientists from both countries supported by a U.S. Navy and a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, both equipped with helicopters.