

opinion, to induce the Soviets to withdraw their forces from Hungary and to right the wrongs done to the Hungarian people. The peoples of Eastern Europe should have the right to choose their own governments freely, unaffected by external pressure and the use or threat of force, and to decide for themselves the political and social order they prefer.

8. The Ministers examined the implications for NATO of Soviet policy and actions in Europe and elsewhere. In the light of their assessment of Soviet policy they were in full agreement on the need to face up to any threat which would endanger the security and freedom of the Atlantic Community. In this connection, the Council approved a directive for future military plans, taking into account the continued rise in Soviet capabilities and the various types of new weapons available for NATO defence. The concept of forward defence in NATO strategy will be maintained. The Council considered the Report on the 1956 Annual Review and approved force goals for 1957, 1958 and 1959.

9. The Council expressed their deep regret at the decision of Lord Ismay to retire this spring as Secretary General of the Organisation and paid tribute to his distinguished services to the Alliance. Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak, the Foreign Minister of Belgium, was appointed as Lord Ismay's successor.



#### CANADIAN-GERMAN AIR TRAINING AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs announced December 19 that the Federal Republic of Germany had concluded arrangements with the Government of Canada for the training in Canada of 360 aircrew to man a number of F86 Sabre aircraft allotted to the Federal Republic under mutual aid arrangements and a further number of aircraft to be purchased in Canada. The Federal Republic of Germany agreed to reimburse the Canadian Government for the cost of maintaining the NATO air training establishment for an additional period of several months to complete the training of the German aircrew. The trainees were expected to commence training in Canada some time in 1957 and it was anticipated that the training would be completed by approximately April 1959.