



Bulletin

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THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IN 1970

Canada's armed forces faced an unusual assortment of adversaries during 1970 — from terrorists at home and pollution of Canadian coastal waters to a Peruvian earthquake and floods in East Pakistan.

There were challenges of a different nature — in Germany, one of the largest peace-time moves in Canadian Forces' history, in the Arctic, where Canada made a sizable expansion of military activity and commitment, and in Cyprus, where new responsibilities were assumed by the Canadian UN contingent.

The Defence Research Board developed a new high-power gas laser that possessed great industrial and medical potential, conducted research into the possibility of greater use of the Gulf of St. Lawrence during the heavy-ice season, continued experiments in its shock and blast program, and made new progress in improving Canada's northern surveillance capabilities.

Quebec's FLQ (Front de Libération du Québec) crisis carried the Canadian forces into the centre of Canadian affairs as several thousand troops dropped

a protective blanket over Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City. For the first time in years, Canadians met armed soldiers in the streets.

CUT IN STRENGTH

During 1970, from March to October, the strength of the forces declined by 2,250 personnel to about 90,000. Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, who succeeded Mr. Léo Cadieux as Minister of Defence in September, said during the FLQ crisis that he would reassess the forces' manpower in the light of possible future requirements for military aid to the civil power, but that in any event, forces' strength would not be reduced beyond the planned ceiling of 82,000.

EQUIPMENT

Meanwhile, new equipment and facilities strengthened the forces in 1970: four Boeing 707s joined Air Transport Command for long-range troop- and equipment-carrying operations; the CF5 tactical fighter began operations with Mobile Command in Canada and was being evaluated for service with the Canadian forces in Europe. Two 22,000-ton operational support ships joined Maritime Command. The first two hulls of a new class of helicopter destroyer were launched at Quebec shipyards. The Department announced construction of hangers and maintenance facilities at four bases in Canada for the operation of 50 tactical transport and utility helicopters and 74 light observation helicopters on order for Mobile Command.

Air Defence Command's CF-101 *Voodoo* aircraft were being exchanged for the same number of improved United States Air Force F-101s under an agreement signed last spring between Canada and the United States. Under the agreement, ADC will receive eight additional aircraft. Maritime Command took delivery in November of a Canadian-built submersible for diving and other marine operations.

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