

adequate facilities of this kind became increasingly significant. The Supreme Commanders had therefore suggested to the Military Committee that an additional infrastructure programme should be undertaken by member countries in 1953. Funds could not be made available to provide all that had been recommended. However, Ministers were able to approve a programme costing approximately £80 million and deferred a decision on the rest of the recommended programme until a future meeting.

The Military Committee report showed that there had been a great advance in the training and effectiveness of the various national forces assigned to the Supreme Commanders and described the combined land, air and sea manoeuvres that had been carried out to improve the co-operation between units and the staff organization. It was agreed that, to the extent that resources may not be available to accomplish everything the military planners consider desirable, more emphasis should, in future, be given to increasing the effectiveness of the forces and of the support units rather than to the provision of greater numbers of divisions.

Annual Review

This point of view will be kept in mind when the Annual Review, which is now in progress, reaches its final stage in the Spring of 1953. This comprehensive study of national-defence programmes has been undertaken as a result of the successful review carried out in 1951-52 by a Temporary Committee of the Council set up by the Council meeting in Ottawa. That Committee had reported on the economic and political factors that influenced the various national defence programmes. Both civil and military authorities realize that the strength of the NATO alliance cannot be expressed solely in terms of troops. Its strength depends on the individual strength of each of the member countries, and they in turn must be economically healthy and politically stable in order to play their part in the defence of the Atlantic area. The Council therefore directed that the detailed study of defence programmes should be undertaken again in order to determine the best efforts members could make to meet all the requirements of the strong alliance.

The Annual Review (1952) is being carried out by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Council and with the assistance of national delegations. The first report, which was presented to the Ministers at Paris, disclosed that the force goals for 1952 have been substantially achieved. Plans indicate further individual and collective efforts will be made in 1953 to increase, improve and strengthen the forces now in being. By the time the Review is completed next Spring, the Supreme Commanders should have a more definite idea of the forces which will be put at their disposal during the coming period.

The Ministers decided that they should meet again in the Spring of 1953, when the final report on the Annual Review is ready in order to reach agreement on the best contributions each could make to the integrated forces. The text of the final communique issued at the conclusion of the Ministerial Meeting is given below.

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL FINAL COMMUNIQUE

December 19, 1952.

The Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council ended in Paris today. The Chairman was Mr. Ole Bjorn Kraft, Foreign Minister of Denmark. It was attended by thirty-two Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Economics and Defence.

2. The Council received a progress report by the Secretary-General, which outlined the structure of the International Secretariat. It described the work accomplished in the last eight months by the Council, meeting regularly through the Per-