

These measures will require a total increase of approximately 15,000 in the regular forces, and it is intended to proceed immediately with the recruitment of this personnel. To authorize this increase under the National Defence Act, an Order-in-Council has been passed increasing the limit of the numbers in the regular forces from 120,000 to 135,000.

In the interests of maintaining the present high efficiency of the Brigade overseas it has been decided (as already announced), to defer until next year the return to Canada of the Black Watch Battalion now with the Brigade and its replacement by a battalion of the Black Watch from Canada.

These decisions will not have the effect of forming new units or formations but will bring up existing forces to a higher state of preparedness and will make more effective the armed forces' contribution to the civil defence emergency organization. It is hoped that these decisions will be regarded not as provocative but rather as a manifestation of Canada's intention to stand solidly with its NATO partners.

In reviewing our defences we have concluded that in the event of nuclear war there would be a need for a larger number of men trained in survival operations than we now have.

The militia has an effective strength of approximately 42,000 men. Should Canada be attacked, many more men would be needed for survival operations and for support of regular army field forces.

Consequently, the Government has approved a plan to increase the number of men trained to take part in survival and rescue operations should the need arise. It has been decided to train up to 100,000 men on special courses, each lasting six weeks. Approximately 25,000 will be trained on each course in existing military armouries across the country.

These courses will provide sufficient basic military training to maintain the discipline and response essential to the control and effective employment of such a force on operations, but emphasis throughout will be on the teaching of subjects essential for national survival.

During the period of their course, trainees will serve in the militia on a continuous "call-out" basis. They will receive normal pay, with subsistence allowance in lieu of rations, as given to a Regular Army recruit private of single status.

Physical requirements will not be as stringent as those now in force for the regular army, and standards of enrolment will be modified to permit acceptance of applicants between the ages of 18 and 50 years, married or single.

The first course is scheduled to get underway in mid-November. When the courses are completed, Canada will have a sizeable reserve of trained manpower essential to carrying out many tasks required for survival should it come under nuclear attack.