

To improve our anti-submarine capability and to simplify logistic and training problems, the navy has transferred all the new St. Laurent class escorts to the West Coast, while the Restigouche class escorts will be stationed in the Atlantic Command. Of the original seven Restigouche class escorts, five are now in commission and the remaining two, Columbia and Chaudière, will be commissioned by the end of this year. These ships, together with the Argus aircraft of the RCAF Maritime Command, form an effective hunter-killer and anti-submarine team whose effectiveness increases as new and more advanced equipment is introduced.

To replace Second World War escorts a construction programme for six repeat Restigouche escorts has been commenced. Work has already started on the first of these ships, a second will be laid down this month and the remainder will follow at approximately three month intervals.

National Survival Role

Another aspect of the defence of Canada is the survival role to be carried out by all regular and reserve forces not directly involved in operational duties in the event of war. With the advent of the ICBM we do not pretend that we can ensure a complete defence of North America. Therefore the Government feels that it is prudent to give more thought and consideration to the passive measures of defence which may have to be adopted should our efforts fail to prevent war. With this in mind the regular and reserve forces have been organized for survival operations. All defence forces which are not actively engaged in repelling the attack will be trained and ready to take active measures to assist survival.

An Order in Council known as the Civil Defence Order, 1959, has been approved by the Governor in Council and tabled in the House of Commons. This Order has given the Department of National Defence various civil defence powers, duties and functions which will provide for a system of warning the public of attack, determining location of nuclear explosions and fall-out patterns, assessing damage and casualties, re-entry and rescue. The Department of National Defence will be responsible for all re-entry operations in seriously damaged or contaminated areas. The Department has also been given the tasks of providing emergency support to provincial and municipal authorities for the maintenance of law and order and the maintenance and operation of emergency communications facilities.

The Canadian army is the designated service responsible for the conduct of survival operations, and will be assisted by such elements of the RCN and RCAF as can be made available for this task. A Director General of Survival Operations