

The Army has also been closely following recent reviews of army organization in the United States, the United Kingdom, France and other countries which are intended to take account of new weapons and conditions of war, and the army has had observers at large-scale NATO divisional tests in Europe.

Increased Mobility

It is generally accepted that, in the use of ground forces, we must work toward a greater degree of flexibility and increased mobility. In particular, practical assessments are being made by the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Canadian Army of those types of aircraft that would be most suitable for rapid deployment, supply, and support of Canada's ground forces.

As the committee knows, Canada for some time has had a mobile striking force of three battalions of infantry with supporting arms and services, largely trained as parachutists and transportable in C-119 aircraft known as flying box cars. The established role of this force has been to deal with possible small diversionary raids in the Canadian north . . .

Turning next to the Royal Canadian Navy, there is less by way of change to report this year since the Navy has so recently reviewed its place in modern war, with sweeping changes in ship design, equipment and tactics. But there is every evidence that this arm of our forces will continue to have an important place in our defence planning.

We are all well aware of the tremendous size, modern design, and readiness of the Russian submarine fleet, which could be used not only to destroy shipping but also perhaps to make long-range missile attacks, using nuclear weapons, on the coastal areas of this continent. Remembering, of course, that the submarine is primarily an offensive weapon, we are continuing to improve as rapidly as possible the anti-submarine capabilities of our fleet. To this end, we can look forward this year to the addition of about nine new operational ships to the fleet, and several supporting crafts as well.

The most noteworthy of the additions to the fleet will be the commissioning of HMCS *Bonaventure*, a light fleet aircraft carrier of the latest design, which will replace HMCS *Magnificent*. The *Bonaventure* will be armed with the Banshee jet-fighter aircraft, which have begun to come forward, and the Canadian-made CS-2F anti-submarine aircraft. These fine modern aircraft will replace the Sea Furies and Avengers formerly in the naval service.

Other additions to the fleet will be three and possibly four destroyer escorts of the *St. Laurent* class, specially designed to meet the conditions of nuclear war. You will recall that the first of these ships, HMCS *St. Laurent*, was commissioned last autumn. Earlier this year she went down to the United States and carried out successfully a very comprehensive series of performance trials and exercises. I am pleased to say I have seen fine reports on this.

Subsequently, the *St. Laurent* visited the United Kingdom for the same purpose, and during this visit participated in escorting Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to Sweden. This Canadian destroyer-escort is probably the finest and most modern anti-submarine vessel in the world today.

In summary, I would emphasize that we are vigorously pursuing our policy of enhancing the anti-submarine capabilities of the Canadian Navy, which is its specialized NATO role . . .