

SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

The composition and organization of the new Special Service Force of the Canadian Army forecast in the White Paper on Defence was announced recently by Canadian Forces Headquarters in Ottawa. The headquarters and most of the units will be formed from the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, which has its headquarters at Camp Petawawa, Ontario. Infantry units will be the 1st Battalion Canadian Guards, Camp Picton, Ontario, 1st Battalion Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Victoria, British Columbia, and 1st Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment, Camp Valcartier, Quebec. On regular rotation to the NATO brigade in Germany during the summer of 1965, the Royal 22nd will replace the 2nd Battalion of the Black Watch, which will return to Camp Gagetown to assume the Special Service Force role. The 1st Canadian Guards is now in Cyprus. The 1st Queen's Own Rifles is now Canada's UN standby battalion.

The Special Service Force will be commanded by Brig. J.A. Dextraze, who now commands 2 CIBG. It will be specially trained and equipped for service anywhere in the world and will be "air-portable", with the capability of "air-dropping" a portion of its equipment. Its strength will be about 4,000, including support elements.

FORCE COMPONENTS

Each unit of the Force is being reorganized to fit the White Paper conception of instant readiness and "air-portability". Units, provided from the Camp Petawawa, will be a light-artillery regiment, an engineer squadron, a signal squadron and one service unit composed of a army service corps, ordnance, medical, dental, electrical and mechanical engineers and provost elements. In their new role, the infantry battalions will have a strength of about 650 instead of their former 850.

The new light-artillery regiment, formed from the 4th Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, will consist of one battery of light-weight 105-mm howitzers and one battery of heavy mortars. The engineers, from the 1st Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, will consist of elements for formal field-operation works and road and airfield construction. The signals squadron, formed from the 2nd Signals Squadron, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, will be specially designed to support the Force.

IMPROVED FISHERY INSPECTION

An expanded programme of inspection by the federal Department of Fisheries to ensure consistently high standards in Canadian fishery products was forecast recently by Fisheries Minister H.J. Robichaud. Opening the sixth biennial meeting in Ottawa of senior field and headquarters inspection officers of his Department, Mr. Robichaud said it was necessary for Canada to have uniform standards for its fishery products, to guarantee fish of the best quality to consumers at home and abroad. Only

in this way also, he said, could Canada compete successfully in world markets.

Steps already taken to maintain the high quality of fishery products, from catch to consumption, were outlined by H.V. Dempsey, Director of the Department's Inspection Service, who presided over the four-day meeting. New draft regulations were already in the hands of the provinces and the industry, he said, and it was hoped that these might be discussed further during the next few weeks, when the provinces and the industry would have an opportunity to make their observations.

CANADA AND WORLD STANDARD

Mr. Dempsey also drew attention to the part Canada was playing in bringing about uniform world standards in fishery products through the Codex Alimentarius Commission, under the joint auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization on the United Nations. Indicative of the interest shown in Canada's inspection activities was the presence at the opening sessions of Poul F. Jensen, Director of Inspection, Department of Inspection, Department of Fisheries, Copenhagen; W.R. Mottram, Assistant Director, Bureau of Standards, Pretoria; James Brooker, Chief of Inspection, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, and Dr. Perry Lane and Phil McKay of the Gloucester Technological Laboratory, Massachusetts.

CANADA AT IA-ECOSOC

The Canadian Government is represented by observers at the third annual ministerial meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (IA-ECOSOC, which opened in Lima, Peru, on December 5 and will end on December 14. Canada was represented by observers at the two previous meetings.

The Canadian observer group is headed by Mr. F.M. Tovell, Canadian Ambassador to Peru, who is assisted by Mr. R.E. Gravel, Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Santiago, Chile, and Messrs K.G. Ramsay and D.J. McEachran of the Canadian Embassy in Lima.

TAX-PAID CIGARETTE WITHDRAWALS

Tax-paid withdrawals of cigarettes for consumption in Canada, as indicated by the sale of excise revenue stamps, rose 8.6 per cent in October, to 3,727,866,000 from 3,432,223,000 in October last year, while withdrawals of cigars increased 22.8 per cent, to 46,901,000 from 38,199,000, it is reported in a special statement issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's withdrawals of cut tobacco decreased 6.3 per cent, to 1,604,000 pounds from 1,711,000 a year earlier, plug tobacco by 7.8 per cent, to 95,000 pounds from 13,000, and snuff by 9.4 per cent, to 77,000 pounds from 85,000, while consumption of raw-leaf tobacco rose slightly, to 85,000 pounds from 84,000.