

Defence minister attends NATO nuclear meeting

The signing of an agreement between Canada and the federal Republic of Germany for the use of Canadian facilities for German flight training was a highlight of the visit by Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne to Bonn, April 7-8.

The minister was in Bonn to attend the twenty-ninth meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) nuclear planning group and also to make an official visit to that country at the invitation of the German Defence Minister Hans Apel.

The nuclear planning group is responsible for formulating policy proposals concerning the nuclear affairs of the alliance. Discussions at the session focused on modernization of NATO's long range theatre nuclear forces, theatre nuclear arms control and their relationship to the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty process.

Canadian representatives to the meeting, chaired by Joseph Luns, Secretary General of NATO included Ambassador J.G.H. Halstead, Permanent Representative of Canada to the North Atlantic Council and Canada's Chief of Defence Staff General Ramsey Withers.

Member countries of the nuclear planning group are: Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, Britain, the United States and Canada.

Air training pact signed

The agreement signed between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany provides for the use of facilities at Goose Bay Labrador for low-level flight training operations by the German Air Force.

An exchange of notes was signed in Bonn by Canada's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany Klaus Goldschlag and State Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic Guenther van Well.

The agreement reflects Canada's continuing resolve to help maintain the deterrent capability of NATO forces. It will remain in effect until December 31, 1983. The agreement follows a successful trial period of flight training conducted by the German Air Force at Goose Bay from July to October 1980. Under the terms of the agreement, the Germans will station up to 200 personnel and 16 aircraft at



Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne signs the Canadian-German air training agreement. Pictured at the signing are (left to right): Canada's Ambassador in Bonn Klaus Goldschlag, Mr. Lamontagne, German Defence Minister Hans Apel and State Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic Guenther van Well.

Goose Bay under the supervision of the Canadian Armed Forces who will ensure compliance with Canadian safety regulations.

Senior provincial officials and native groups have been briefed on the training program which has been designed to have minimal impact on wildlife and the en-

vironment.

The Germans join other NATO allies who also use the Goose Bay facilities. The Royal Air Force has used the base to support *Vulcan* bomber training since 1967 and the United States Air Force maintains a small detachment there in support of strategic airlift operations.

Changes in foreign service

The federal government is making changes to consolidate its foreign service operations.

On April 1, some 350 foreign service personnel from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) were officially transferred to the Department of External Affairs.

The transfer of this group of foreign service officers will not mean a change in the way immigration services are provided to individuals. The Department of External Affairs will be assuming responsibility for delivery of immigration programs abroad. Policy development, program design and legislative interpretation will remain with Employment and Immigration, which will continue to administer the provisions of the Immigration Act and its application at home and abroad.

"All inquiries regarding immigrants, visitors or other individuals involved in the immigration process, should continue to be directed to the CEIC," said Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

The decision to transfer foreign service officers was based on studies indicating that improved career prospects for personnel, as well as more efficient and effective foreign operations, could be achieved through integration at foreign posts.

As part of the same consolidation plan, the Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce will assume responsibility for the foreign operations of the Canadian Government Office of Tourism.

Under the plan, External Affairs will be responsible for the executive level of the foreign service and will provide program services abroad to the Canadian International Development Agency.