

Commanders.* The Chairmanship of the Military Committee rotates annually in the alphabetical order of NATO countries. At the conclusion of the meetings in Rome in November, 1951, Lieutenant-General Charles Foulkes, Chairman of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff, succeeded to the Chairmanship of the Committee.

The Build-up of Forces - As General Eisenhower has pointed out in his First Annual Report, when his command was established there were fewer than a total of fifteen divisions among all NATO members adequately trained and equipped for war in Western Europe. National service programs, while providing a reservoir of trained man-power made no provisions for equipment required to convert this pool into effective reserve divisions. In the air, the situation was equally unsatisfactory with fewer than one thousand operational aircraft available for Western Europe, many of which were admittedly obsolescent. In the naval sphere, the situation was somewhat better, but a tremendous effort would nevertheless have been required to offset the threat of submarine attack to vital sea routes.

The schedule of NATO forces in Europe, recently approved, calls for the establishment before the end of 1952 of a force of fifty divisions, about one-half of them standing divisions, and the others reserve divisions which could be brought into action from three to thirty days after mobilization. This force would be supported by an air arm of four thousand aircraft, a reasonable proportion of them being the most modern jet types. Added to this is a greatly strengthened and reorganized naval force.

As well, our strategic position has been improved by the inclusion in NATO of Greece and Turkey, whose considerable national forces will greatly strengthen the southern flank.

Germany and the European Defence Community

A further problem, the satisfactory solution of which is fundamental to the security of the North Atlantic area, is that of the future of Germany. Twice within living memory Germany has attempted to gain the mastery of Europe. Since the war it has been divided between the Eastern Zone which is under the control and tutelage of the U.S.S.R., and the Western Zone which is occupied jointly by the United Kingdom, the United States and France. A united Germany, and perhaps even Western Germany alone, is potentially the strongest single power in Europe apart from the U.S.S.R. Should all Germany fall under the domination of Russia, it would be disastrous for the West. Fortunately the people of Western Germany have made clear that they wish to remain in the Western camp. But their country cannot be left undefended; nor should other Western nations be expected to bear alone this responsibility. Germany, moreover, could be a valuable ally to the West.

* Originally there was a Defence Committee consisting of Defence Ministers, to whom the Military Committee reported. This Defence Committee has, however, been consolidated into the Council, though it has become customary for Defence Ministers attending a Council meeting to meet separately to discuss Military Committee reports and recommendations. The Honourable Brooke Claxton, Canadian Minister of National Defence, presided at the meetings of Defence Ministers at the Rome and Lisbon meetings of the Council.