

*National Defence Act Amendment*

January-February issue of *Aerospace-International* published for the leaders of the free world by the United States Air Force Association, there is an authoritative analysis of the size, organization and equipment of the armies, navies and air forces of 49 major powers. This analysis covers the free world, the communist bloc and the non-aligned nations and is presented by special arrangement with London's Institute for Strategic Studies. I commend this magazine to the minister for his week end reading. It will give him a better idea of the military strengths and weak points of his friends and the enormous combined strength of his potential enemies.

It is not my intention to burden the committee this afternoon with all the figures of the combined strength of the communist bloc or of the potential power of the Soviet army or air force. However, I wish to place on the record a list of the surface ships and total seapower of the Soviets, which is awesome in its threat to the peace and security of the free world. I quote from the magazine in question. It lists under "Seapower" the following:

The strength of the Soviet navy and naval air force is 465,000 men. In total tonnage, it is the second biggest navy in the world, and its main strength lies in the submarine fleet. An unusually high proportion of the fleet is kept in commission. There are indications that the naval air force and the missile bearing submarines have an increasingly important role in Soviet strategy.

There are now some 350 conventionally powered and 50 nuclear powered submarines. (Nuclear submarine production appears to be at the rate of at least five a year.) About 15 of the nuclear and 25 of the conventional submarines can fire ballistic missiles and carry an average of three missiles each; 12 of the nuclear and 28 of the conventionally powered submarines are equipped with cruise missiles which have a range of between 300 and 500 miles; they are thought to carry an average of four missiles each. The remainder are training vessels or attack submarines equipped with torpedoes. The four submarine fleets are distributed approximately as follows: 75 in the Baltic fleet, 175 in the Arctic, 45 in the Black Sea, and about 100 in the Far East. The missile carrying submarines are mostly divided between the Arctic and Far East fleets.

Seaborne missiles. It is now believed that the Soviets have successfully developed submerged firing of the Serb missile, which has been shown on Moscow parades. It is probably being gradually introduced into service, but its range may not be much greater than 650 miles.

Tactical missiles. Some ships and submarines are known to be fitted with cruise missiles which are intended primarily for antiship use. However, these might also be used against shore targets and, in the case of submarines, would be fired from the surface and from fairly long range.

Naval air force. There are no aircraft carriers in the Soviet navy. The land based naval air force comprises about 500 bombers and 350 other aircraft. Most of the bombers are based near the north-western and Black Sea coasts of the Soviet Union.

Under the heading "Surface Ships" the article says:

The surface ships of the Soviet navy consist of the following:

20 cruisers, of which one carries surface-to-air missiles.

105 destroyers, of which 25 carry surface-to-air or surface-to-surface missiles.

100 other ocean going escorts.

300 coastal escorts and submarine chasers.

350 fast patrol boats, many with short range surface-to-surface missiles.

300 minesweepers.

200 landing ships and landing craft.

1,050 other vessels.

Some adapted trawlers are used for electronic intelligence.

A proportion of the destroyers and smaller vessels may not be fully manned.

The cruisers are of three different types.

Then it lists the cruisers and destroyers and their names. The article continues:

Recent Soviet comment has indicated a renewed interest in amphibious forces. There is a small marine corps of perhaps 3,000 men, units of which are stationed with the Baltic, Black Sea, and Pacific fleets.

Against this threat—and in this magazine Canada's total forces are listed—we are shown as having a population of 20 million and total armed forces of 107,100 men. Our total navy strength is listed as 18,100 men, one light aircraft carrier, 23 destroyer escorts, six other escorts, three submarines, including one British under Canadian operational control, and two support ships, CS2-F2 Tracker aircraft and Sea King helicopters, the article says, are embarked in the aircraft carrier, and Sea King helicopters in some of the destroyers. Our naval reserves total is listed as about 2,500 men.

The Canadian people are asking, who is advising the minister? We have obligations to NATO and to NORAD and these obligations can only be fulfilled if our forces retain their own uniforms, their own individualities and their own traditions. We must be in a position to work in co-operation with our major allies, the Americans and the British, so that our armies, navies and air forces can work together in harmony. It is vitally important that we retain our navy and that we place greater emphasis on its over-all role in our national defence.

In view of the figures which I have placed on the record with regard to the strength of our potential enemy, I believe it is almost mandatory that we give deeper consideration