

of some twelve divisions, 1,350 aircraft, and light naval forces. At the same time, these agreements will reinforce the NATO machinery in such a way as to strengthen the central control of the forces placed under NATO command in Europe. They also include pledges by the Federal Republic, on the one hand, never to have recourse to force to achieve the re-unification of Germany or the modification of its present boundaries, and by the Three Powers, on the other hand, (with which the other NATO powers have associated themselves), to take appropriate steps against any violation of this assurance. These provisions, along with the armament control plan of the Western European Union, indicate the purely defensive nature of the alliance.

### 3. Military Developments

The basis of NATO defence planning in 1954 was the judgment of the North Atlantic Council, at its ministerial session in December 1953, that the threat to the West remained and that member countries had to be ready to maintain over an extended period a high level of military preparedness. Canada has accordingly continued its contribution to NATO forces. An infantry brigade and an air division are stationed in Europe, while the Royal Canadian Navy has 36 ships in commission which are earmarked for the use of NATO in defence of the Canada—United States area of the Atlantic command and in protection of convoys.

Admiral Jerauld Wright was appointed by the North Atlantic Council in February, on the nomination of the President of the United States, to succeed Admiral Lynde McCormick as Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. In October he made an official visit to Canada. General Alfred M. Gruenther, Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Europe, visited Canada in June.

### 4. Mutual Aid

Since the Canadian Mutual Aid Programme was inaugurated in 1950, well over one billion dollars has been appropriated by the Canadian Parliament for mutual aid to European NATO countries. In the fiscal year 1954-55, Parliament approved the continuation of the Mutual Aid Programme in this period under an expenditure ceiling of \$300,000,000. Aid has taken the form of the NATO aircrew training programme in Canada, a contribution to the cost of NATO common budgets, and the provision of end-item aid to help meet the equipment deficiencies of the European member countries. When the Canadian programme was inaugurated, there existed in NATO grave and widespread deficiencies of equipment. Since then, with the assistance received from Canada and the United States and with the continued progress towards economic recovery in Europe, these countries generally find themselves in a position to meet a larger part of those equipment deficiencies which remain.

### 5. Non-Military Aspects

Two NATO conferences for radio officials from member countries afforded opportunities for a useful exchange of technical information. In addition, the NATO Council's Committee on Information and Cultural Relations made further progress in developing modest but practical projects designed to increase mutual co-operation and understanding among members of the Atlantic community.