

is beginning to be used. But there is still a long way to go before existing facilities in the whole North Atlantic area will be fully employed or potential capacity converted to the extent required. It will be longer still before finished equipment in sufficient volume will be coming off assembly lines.

The first stage in the effective development of the North Atlantic Alliance was one of setting up a working organization, and of preliminary military planning. The second resulted in decision, in principle, to establish an integrated European force. The next stage must be one of action: to build up national forces; to establish an integrated force in Europe adequate to deter aggression and, if aggression comes, to resist it effectively; to produce modern equipment in quantity. The realization of these objectives will demand the efforts of all North Atlantic Treaty countries.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

(The following statement was made for the newsreels by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, on December 26, 1950, immediately after his return from the Brussels meetings. Mr. Claxton represented the Canadian Government at both the Council and Defence Committee meetings at Brussels. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, who had expected to attend the Council, was unable to do so because he had been appointed a member of the United Nations Cease-Fire Group on Korea.)

This is ordinarily the festive season, but as we are beginning a New Year there is in the minds of all of us the realization of hard work to be done in the months ahead. The increasing threat of aggression continues to give cause for profound anxiety. The free nations everywhere must push on with their preparations to defend themselves and so deter aggression.

Shortly before Christmas I returned from a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Nations in Brussels. At that meeting all twelve of the member nations agreed that we should press forward at a much greater speed to attain the goal of security.

To this end it was my honour to propose the appointment of General Dwight D. Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of the integrated force of Europe. It is his job to organize that force to defend Western Europe against the threat of Communist aggression. At the present time the government is considering how we can best do our part to build up that integrated force. Our decision will be subject to the approval of Parliament when it meets later this month. Strong enough forces will preserve the peace by deterring aggression. What we are spending on defence should be regarded as the premium of insurance for peace, and because the risks are greater we are going to spend much more.

The reverses suffered by the United Nations in Korea, and China's refusal to accept the Cease-Fire proposal of the United Nations emphasize the urgent need for action now.

Canada's future lies in our hands. The Canadian people have never failed in resolution or in effort.

We shall need men and money and materials in increasing quantities. We shall want a good deal more than business as usual.

1951 will be a difficult and challenging year but I am sure we'll meet the challenge, provided each does his part.