

force, the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade, which is stationed in Germany as part of General Ridgway's forces, and the two F-86 jet-fighter wings already overseas, which will be part of the R.C.A.F. division to be stationed in France and Germany when airfields become available. Canada has also provided, during the past year, considerable help to other member countries by means of our Mutual Aid Programme, under which substantial quantities of arms and ancillary equipment have been supplied.

A ministerial meeting of the Council was held in Paris in December, not to make momentous decisions but rather to review the progress made since Lisbon on both the civilian and military sides. And there will be another meeting of the North Atlantic Council, under present plans, toward the end of April. At that meeting we will consider the 1952 annual review, which was not completed in December. We will also consider steps to be recommended for the rest of 1953.

On the civilian side, the Secretary-General's report last December described the work, constructive but still in its initial stages, which has been done in the non-military fields of co-operation, although it has not proceeded as far as some of us had hoped when we signed the North Atlantic Pact. Work has proceeded in the field of political consultation through the Council, which is now in permanent session, work dealing with population problems, civil defence in wartime, food plans and ship production and supply.

In this connection I think it possibly appropriate for me to refer to the problem posed by the floods which have devastated three of the member states of NATO. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is the formal expression of the North Atlantic community. A community is a group of people who act together in a crisis, and it is in moments of emergency and crisis that each of us is made aware of the reality of the community which links the peoples which compose it.

The flood disasters which have recently struck at Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium aroused throughout Canada and the whole community instant sympathy and concern, coupled with a desire to speed aid to the victims. I think this disaster might well be a matter for consideration by our North Atlantic Treaty Organization. ...

It has been brought to the attention of the Council by several members. I should like to say a word on the military side before I sit down. The progress report of the Military Committee in December showed that great advances had been made in training and increasing the effectiveness of the various national forces assigned to the supreme commander, and in the co-operation between national units and staffs. Substantial advances have also been made in the standardization of international military procedures, notably in signals and in the provision of airfields. At their December meeting the ministers were able to complete the European Command structure by approving the Military Committee's proposal for the establishment of a Mediterranean Command. So on the whole there has been a steady advance.

It seems to me rather unfortunate therefore that the tone of the publicity which came out of the Ministerial meeting in Paris in December seemed to reinforce this talk of loss of momentum and indeed defeatism. The picture painted in some of the press dispatches emanating from Paris was that of reluctant member countries falling short of the minimum effort required to guard against aggression in spite of dire warnings from various quarters of the consequences of such aggression. If NATO has not done everything