

ties to be granted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization itself, its officials and national representatives. As a matter of fact the Council sat here in Ottawa in September, but I do not know when it will sit here again. That was the first occasion when we had national representatives of NATO in Canada. The three principal seats of NATO are Washington, Paris and London, and that is where the international staff and the national representations will be.

At the present time the staff numbers approximately 170. I cannot state how many will benefit from these diplomatic privileges and immunities.

Status of NATO Forces Abroad

On November 15, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, moved that the House go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to approve an agreement between the parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the status of their forces when present in the territory of one another; to provide on a reciprocal basis for certain exemptions for personnel in a country other than their own from income tax, customs duty and certain claims arising out of death, personal injury or property damage resulting from the negligence of their members.

The motion was agreed to, and the House accordingly went into committee.

Mr. Claxton opened the debate on his motion as follows in part:

... Perhaps I can make plain the reason for this legislation when I say that without such legislation in effect in this and other countries the forces of Canada and the other North Atlantic Treaty nations when in another country would have no more rights or immunities than tourists. In respect of the laws of the country they were visiting they would be in the same position as one travelling on civilian business. That would affect their position with regard to passports, immigration, health services, taxation, customs and civil and criminal jurisdiction.

To provide for this we passed the Visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act, 1933, which deals with the situation with regard to forces of the Commonwealth which happen to be in Canada. The Commonwealth countries have adopted similar legislation to give us reciprocal rights and immunities. We also adopted the Visiting Forces (United States of America) Act in 1947 which dealt with United States forces which happened to be in Canada. Canadian forces have exactly the same rights in the United States. The bill now proposed will follow along the lines of this legislation. It will approve the agreement and give effect to these provisions

The 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade is on the way to Europe. Some elements have already arrived and the main units will begin to arrive, as I have said, on November 20 or 21. We have made arrangements with the Government of the Netherlands that such requirements will be waived in respect of Canadian troops in their passage through the Netherlands. We have also made arrangements with the Allied High Commission, which is the responsible defence authority in Western Germany, that while our troops will not be occupation troops and will have no occupation duties they will have the same status with respect to rights and immunities as if they were British, American or French forces, which have been there since the end of the war.

Korea

Replying, on November 26, to an enquiry by Mr. Coldwell about the cease-fire negotiations in Korea, the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent said:

... The information I have received is that the sub-delegations of the United Nations and enemy delegations meeting at Panmunjom have agreed on the line of contact between the United Nations and enemy forces for the 145 miles across the peninsula of Korea, and have thereby established the description of a neutral buffer zone which would extend two kilometers in depth from this contact line on either