

To enable the NATO Atlantic Commander to carry out his peacetime duties, forces are periodically placed at his disposal for combined training. Unlike the Commander of the NATO forces in Europe, SACLANT has no permanently assigned forces; instead, he has to depend on forces earmarked for assignment to his command in an emergency. The reasoning for this arrangement is that the maritime powers of NATO maintain flexible naval forces and maritime air forces to protect their national interests on the high seas in time of peace. Such forces are highly mobile and it was decided, therefore, that the Atlantic maritime powers would maintain their own naval forces and maritime air forces in peacetime and transfer control of an agreed number of units to SACLANT on the declaration of an emergency.

By the end of 1959, Canada was able to provide one carrier and 29 escorts to be readily available to SACLANT for duty in the North Atlantic in the event of an emergency. In addition, 14 escorts stationed on the West Coast and 10 minesweepers were provided for the Canada-U.S. region.

In 1959, Canada approved the construction of a further six escort ships - the "Mackenzie" Class - to replace older vessels in commission, so that there would be no reduction in the naval commitment.

Technological improvements, aimed at increasing the anti-submarine effectiveness of our forces, have been steadily introduced. The conversion programme now under way for the seven "St. Laurent" Class ships includes the fitting of variable-depth sonar, together with the installation of a platform and operating facilities for an anti-submarine helicopter.

With the development of nuclear submarines, however, the problems of anti-submarine warfare have been greatly increased. As in other areas of advanced military technology, the "offence" is more effective than the "defence" at the present time. Increased importance is being given to research and development in anti-submarine devices. One new contribution to the pool of knowledge on this subject will be the development of a prototype hydrofoil craft which has just been authorized. It is but one of the options being studied with great interest by this department.

In addition to naval forces, Canada agreed that the RCAF should earmark 40 maritime patrol aircraft to SACLANT. "Lancaster" aircraft were joined for this assignment by "Neptunes" in the latter part of the 1950's, with the long-range "Argus" coming into service as a replacement for the former aircraft in 1959.

Army

For some years the Canadian Army has maintained a brigade group in Europe. It is part of the Northern Army Group. Canada has also agreed to supply the balance of a division in the event hostilities should occur. The agreed time-lapse before the reserve brigade would be available, however, and the unavailability of