

*Supply—National Defence*

replaced by the 60-millimetre; the 3-inch mortar has been replaced by the 81-millimetre; the 25-pounder field gun has been replaced by the 105-millimetre howitzer; and the 5.5 medium gun by the 155-millimetre gun and gun howitzer.

Personnel of the army have been trained and are continuing to take courses on rockets and guided missiles and, although we are withholding expenditures on acquiring these types of weapons until development and trials have been carried further—and I say that advisedly—we are keeping in close touch with the method of handling, the tactical use, and the employment of weapons in this field.

Indicative of armed forces' interest in the new conditions of war, the army's radiation detection unit, with navy and air force participation, has been in operation for several years. Over the past year, this unit has taken part in exercises, both in the United States and in the United Kingdom, where practical experience has been gained in detecting, marking and decontaminating areas where atomic explosions have taken place. The work of this unit will greatly enhance the ability of the Canadian armed forces to operate under conditions of nuclear warfare.

The changing emphasis in defence planning necessitated by the advent of nuclear war lays a heavy responsibility on all the armed forces, and in particular the regular army and the militia, to back up the civil defence organization in the early days of a thermo-nuclear war with all military forces not urgently required for their priority military roles.

To this end, a greater understanding of civil defence and civilian disaster techniques is being developed throughout the regular and reserve forces, working in even closer co-operation with the civil defence authorities.

Turning next to the Royal Canadian Navy, there is less by way of change to report this year since the navy has so recently reviewed its place in modern war, with sweeping changes in ship design, equipment and tactics. But there is every evidence that this arm of our forces will continue to have an important place in our defence planning.

We are all well aware of the tremendous size, modern design, and readiness of the Russian submarine fleet, which could be used not only to destroy shipping but also perhaps to make long-range missile attacks, using nuclear weapons, on the coastal areas of this continent. Remembering, of course, that the submarine is primarily an offensive weapon, we are continuing to improve as rapidly as possible the anti-submarine capabilities of

our fleet. To this end, we can look forward this year to the addition of about nine new operational ships to the fleet, and several supporting craft as well.

The most noteworthy of the additions to the fleet will be the commissioning of H.M.C.S. *Bonaventure*, a light fleet aircraft carrier of the latest design, which will replace H.M.C.S. *Magnificent*. The *Bonaventure* will be armed with the Banshee jet-fighter aircraft, which have begun to come forward, and the Canadian-made CS-2F anti-submarine aircraft. These fine modern aircraft will replace the Sea Furies and Avengers formerly in the naval service.

Other additions to the fleet will be three and possibly four destroyer escorts of the *St. Laurent* class, specially designed to meet the conditions of nuclear war. You will recall that the first of these ships, H.M.C.S. *St. Laurent*, was commissioned last autumn. Earlier this year she went down to the United States and carried out successfully a very comprehensive series of performance trials and exercises. I am pleased to say I have seen fine reports on this.

Subsequently, the *St. Laurent* visited the United Kingdom for the same purpose, and during this visit participated in escorting Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to Sweden. This Canadian destroyer-escort is probably the finest and most modern anti-submarine vessel in the world today.

In summary, I would emphasize that we are vigorously pursuing our policy of enhancing the anti-submarine capabilities of the Canadian navy, which is its specialized NATO role.

As I have said, Canada's defence program throughout is a changing one as each service, realistically facing up to the changed conditions of war re-evaluates its organization, training and weapons systems. This process of re-evaluation centres, of course, on the research and development program of the defence research board and of the three services. This program is designed to bring to bear on Canada's defence arrangements the latest thinking of our allies, the best intelligence of what potential enemies are doing, and the results of our own research.

Of necessity, I cannot give much detail with respect to this matter, as hon. members will I am sure realize, except to say that without duplicating what is being done elsewhere Canadian defence scientists are keeping abreast of new developments in such vital fields as guided missiles, plane and jet engine design, nuclear explosions, fall-out and anti-submarine measures.

I have noted the valuable work being done by the board on the CF-105 for the air force.