

Obviously, as Western Union becomes stronger, any chance that there might be of the Soviet Union winning an aggressive war will become less. The Soviet Union has pressed her efforts to drive the United States, Britain and France out of Berlin. It is this effort and the willingness to run the risks which it involves that has added tension to the present situation. I don't believe that the Russian people or even the Soviet leaders want war today; but their intransigent attitude has increased its possibility. Even if the situation in Berlin should improve, there will be other points of tension and difficulty until the Russians begin to seek the welfare of their people rather than the extension of their power. War is not inevitable - of course it isn't - but neither is peace inevitable, and until the chances of peace improve, we have got to prepare to defend ourselves.

2. How is defence planning carried on in Canada?

Answer:

The responsibility for overall policy with regard to external relations and defence rests in the Cabinet.

There is a standing committee on Defence which reports to the Cabinet as a whole. The Defence Committee is presided over by the Prime Minister with the Minister of National Defence as Vice-Chairman and the Ministers of Trade and Commerce (that is Munitions and Supply), Finance and External Affairs.

It meets every two or three weeks and deals with major questions of policy and planning. It is attended by the Chiefs of Staff (including the Chairman of the Defence Research Board) and the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

The Chiefs of Staff Committee deals with questions of planning and operations. Each year it presents a joint appreciation, plan and implementation programme of what should be done in the next fiscal year.

This planning has in mind long as well as short-range possibilities. It is subject to review throughout the year in the light of the changing situation.

We have other top-level committees to deal with major administrative problems, with personnel matters and with problems of supply and equipment. Within this set-up we have combined many of the functions of the three services and taken action to avoid overlapping and produce co-ordination. Canada has gone further in unification than any country but the organization is subject to constant examination with a view to improvement.

4. What is the role of the Industrial Defence Board?

Answer:

The Board was appointed by the Governor-in-Council on April 20, 1948, "to advise the Government of Canada and the Minister of National Defence on all matters relating to the industrial war potential of Canada; to prepare and keep up to date a plan for industrial production in the event of war; to arrange for such liaison between the naval, military and air forces of Canada, the Canadian Ordnance Association, Canadian Arsenals Limited and other agencies and industries as will