

# FEATURES

The government should be glad that the Canadian people have what it takes

## DATELINE

by Rolf J. Schultz

### TOCSIN-B A Failure

Slightly more than a week ago Canadians across the country were asked to take part in a military exercise called Tocsin B, which in plain English means "dig into your tiefenbunkers, we're preparing for war."

Some of our citizens took it as casual as watching a second-rate television show, others were completely unaware of it, and still others, comprising perhaps the greatest majority, went completely hysterical at the sound of the sirens. For the next several days following this highly delightful Mickey Mouse show, the morning hours on radio were filled with telephone calls proclaiming the immediate commencement of building bomb-shelters and the stringing of food for any oncoming attack.

The conclusions drawn from this exercise by our wise and white-bearded friends at Camp Petawawa could well have been predicted just as accurately by a ten year old . . . several million killed . . . several more injured . . . and Canada's broomstick armed forces wiped out. One may well be justified in describing Tocsin B as a multi-million dollar spectacular shot to hell by our government.

It is also ironical to note that during weeks of preparations made by the staff of the Tocsin-B project, a total of 35 sirens failed to function properly throughout the country, one sounded three minutes behind schedule, another could not be shut off and still another caught fire from overheating. This is not to mention the fact that the emergency nationwide network broadcasts were five minutes late due to "technical difficulties." If this is an example of what has been achieved in several weeks of preparations, how could the members of Tocsin-B successfully put a similar plan in operation and inform the public properly in the time span of several minutes, the time required for a Russian nuclear warhead to reach Canada?

Fundamentally, an exercise of this nature creates more panic among Canadians and draws them ever closer to the possibilities of nuclear warfare, that one may well question whether the government is using our money to avoid war or prepare for it. It must be realized that it is practises such as these which on'y encourage further our Soviet neighbors from testing our defenses. Shou'd such an attack ever come about as a result of such unwarranted exercises, then one is certainly not justified in placing the entire blame on the Russian people, who today are perhaps the least worried in "diggin' in".

One sentence released by the international news wires, however, met with great delight from this writer, namely, "In Ottawa Prime Minister Diefenbaker was probably killed". Abbott, too, will be pleased.

### Comment on the United Nations

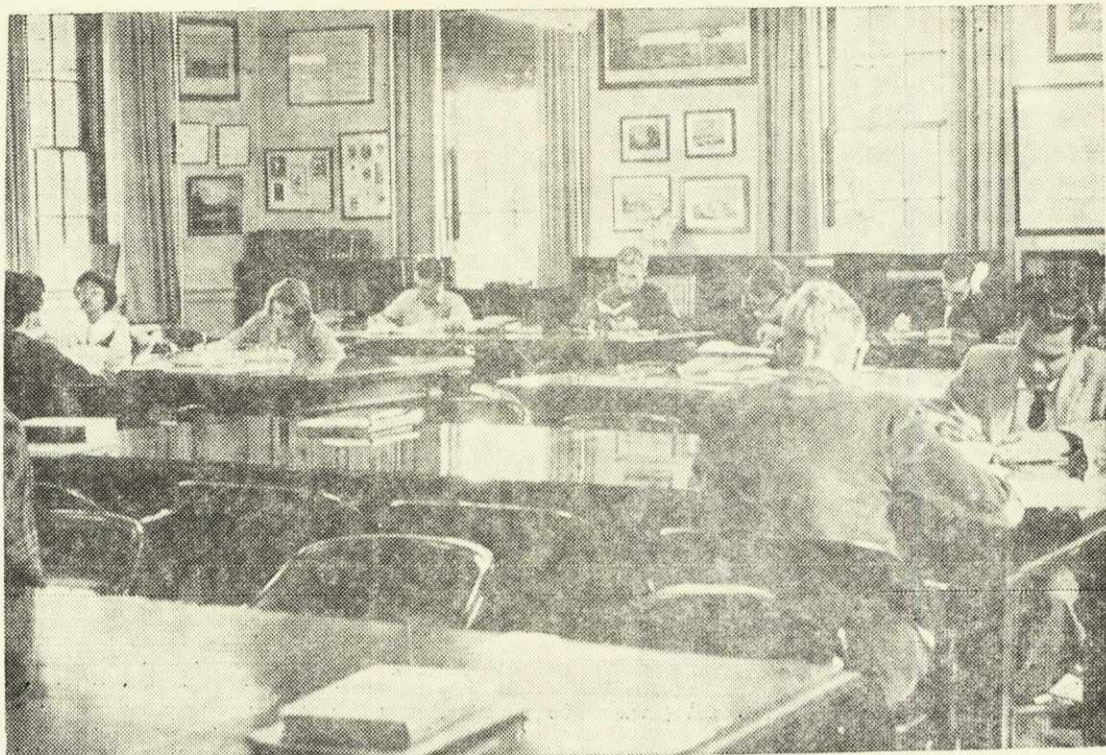
Can the United Nations Organization become a more effective force for the preservation of life?

Off hand there are two stumbling blocks in the path towards a more effective world organization: It does not receive sufficient support and its future is being contemplated in terms and concepts belonging to the outgoing age of military power. The U. N. is not meant to be a night watchman who protects the peace of property of the snoring citizen but rather a force that stirs them into activity by allowing him to be of direct help to the ill and the straving of the world.

In order to carry out its task the U. N. has to be equipped with the right means, which are beyond doubt intended to preserve life, like food, medicine and modern machinery.

It is deplorable that Russia and her allies should view the past activities of the late Dag Hammarskjold so negatively. Yet this no doubt is not the fault of the late secretary-general but rather the fault of the means placed at his disposal. In fact Mr. Hammarsjold should never have had armed troops at his command which placed him in the position of having to decide whom to shoot and whom not to shoot. There can be little doubt that if Dag Hammarskjold had had as many doctors, nurses, technicians and trained administrators at his service as he had armed troops, he would have been in a much better position and nobody would have had cause to call him "Lumumba murderer" and so forth.

It appears that as long as the United Nations retains an armed force to aid it in the execution of its policies, there will remain a certain stigma of death and mourning attached to the world organization.



(Photo by Bissett)

## Library Reformation

Students returning to Dalhousie this year found themselves faced with a number of changes in one of the most important areas of the campus — the library. The new set-up includes the re-organization of the order and cataloguing departments and of the book-keeping system, all of which has cut down staff requirements in these fields. New equipment, such as a new cataloguing machine capable of printing 10,000 cards an hour, has been brought in, while a new type of multiple order copy has speeded up ordering procedures.

A major change has been made in converting the old Morse Room to a Humanities Room, open the same hours as the main reading room, and in the systematic arrangement of magazines.

What has been the reaction of students to these changes? According to Mr. Wilkinson, chief

librarian, general student reaction apparently has been favourable.

However, there are still changes and improvements for the future. There is a shortage of qualified staff to help the students, especially in the evenings, and there is a shortage of space.

Further improvements would ideally provide an increase in the stock of books, a great deal more library space, and even a common room where students could relax and smoke within the library itself.



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