

JAPANESE DELEGATION: The Department of External Affairs announced on February 9 that the Canadian Government has extended an invitation to a delegation of Japanese Members of Parliament to visit Ottawa. The delegation which is now in the United States numbers fourteen. It includes leading members of all major parties, with the exception of the Communist Party, from both Japanese Houses. The group is expected to arrive in Ottawa on February 22 and leave on February 24.

The purpose of the visit to Canada is to give an opportunity to the Japanese Members of Parliament to study the Canadian parliamentary system. Under the post-war constitution, Japan's system of government bears a strong resemblance to our Canadian system. The delegation therefore is particularly interested in such problems as the process by which bills are passed, the working of party government, and any background information as to how political parties are formed and developed in a democracy. Included in the delegation are members of the secretariat of the Japanese Diet who are concerned with administrative details. The delegation has been visiting state legislatures and the federal Congress in the United States. A suitable programme for the delegates in Ottawa is now being prepared.

Three interpreters are accompanying the group in order that language difficulties be minimized. In addition, certain members of the delegation speak English.

The visit of the Japanese group to North America, which will last about 40 days, has the full approval of General MacArthur's headquarters. Besides interpreters, the group is accompanied by two representatives of the Government Section, Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

EXERCISE SWEETBRIAR: Whitehorse, Y.T., Feb. 9 -- Exercise Sweetbriar begins at one minute past midnight on Monday, February 13, when Canadian and United States forces swing into action against the "Aggressor Force" which has already overrun the Fairbanks area and seized the landing strip at Northway, close to the Yukon-Alaska boundary.

Whatever the outcome of the exercise, it is already apparent here that joint and combined staffs of Canadian and United States officers make up a first class fighting team. The co-operation at all levels from the manoeuvre

commander down has been and is excellent, and is reflected in the free and easy intermingling of troops of both countries in their off hours at the movies, in the canteens and on the streets of Whitehorse.

The concentration of Canadian Army vehicles and personnel at Whitehorse is now complete. All units are shaking down for their role in the exercise by running through stiff training drills in the surrounding bush and along the Highway. It is now estimated that some 1,428 Canadian troops, both Active and Reserve, will be actively engaged. In addition there will be approximately 800 men of the Royal Canadian Air Force participating.

The Army has brought in 428 vehicles of all types for the exercise, including specially designed over-snow vehicles, telecommunication equipment, and heated personnel and commodity carriers. The job of driving the vehicles here over the 1,538 miles of ice and snow-covered highway from Wainwright with no personnel casualties and no major mechanical difficulty was outstanding. Ahead of them now are the 372 miles to Northway where the exercise ends, and, of course, the 1,910-mile return trip to Wainwright.

Included in the 1,428 troops taking part in the exercise are 125 members of the Reserve Force, mostly from Western Command. Members of the Active Force represent every province in Canada. Morale of the troops is extremely high.

NAVAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT: Construction of a new \$450,000 building to house the Naval Research Establishment at French Cable Wharf, Dartmouth, N.S., is expected to begin early this summer, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on February 9.

The building will provide modern laboratory facilities and equipment and it is expected that it will take approximately 18 months to complete.

ELECTRIC ENERGY: Production of electric energy by Canada's central electric stations reached an all-time record total of 46,673,214,000 kilowatt hours in 1949, rising almost five per cent over the preceding year's total of 44,568,849,000. During the past 21 years the annual output has almost tripled, production in 1928 amounting to 15,900,000,000 kilowatt hours.