

The Address—Mr. McCusker

the areas of co-operative action were outlined and agreement reached on the particular fields in which each national organization would accept responsibility.

In March also, an agreement was announced between Canada and the United States providing the basis for mutual aid in the event of enemy attack on either country, and preparing the way for close co-operation between the two countries and between the provinces and their neighbouring states in all fields of civil defence action.

In April, a conference was held in Washington between federal civil defence authorities in both countries to work out terms of this co-operation in greater detail.

In June, arrangements were made for a comprehensive coast-to-coast program for giving special training to nurses in the handling of casualties of atomic or other forms of attack.

In July, the basic civil defence pamphlet for the individual citizen "Personal Protection under Atomic Attack" was made available for very large scale distribution. Canada has now produced or has under production twenty basic manuals and pamphlets and has distributed one-quarter of a million copies to the provinces. Many of these pamphlets have been highly praised.

In August, the second meeting of the joint United States-Canadian civil defence committee met in Ottawa to further co-operative action in many important fields.

In September, a special federal grant was made available to assist St. John Ambulance in giving first aid training to 135,000 volunteers who agree to enrol for civil defence work. These volunteers are to be trained in addition to the normal complement of 55,000 enrolled by the order each year in its regular courses. To assist with this training program, a basic civil defence first aid manual is now being distributed in very large quantities, and instructors' training kits will shortly be distributed.

Also in September the government announced that after a careful study of all alternative communications systems, arrangements had been made to lease special facilities so that communities could quickly be warned of impending attack, and that the government, after extensive tests, had ordered and would distribute sirens, at federal expense, for local warning systems in target areas.

The armed forces are establishing the advance warning system to detect any threatened attack on Canada. A radar network will be supplemented by the efforts of a large ground observer corps which will

feed information to a number of strategically located air defence centres. Civil defence liaison officers to be located at these centres will instantly alert the civil defence authorities in target areas lying in the path of any predicted enemy approach.

Apart from these random examples of the chief recent developments in the federal civil defence program, I might briefly review the highlights of recent federal activity under a number of headings:

(a) Fire fighting. To extend the effective reach of mutual aid in this field the federal government is assisting the provinces in standardizing their fire fighting equipment. Ontario has already come forward with its plan and will receive a federal grant of \$300,000. The other provinces are being encouraged to make use of the moneys available. Extensive tests have been made to find the best type of auxiliary fire fighting units to be supplied by the federal government to local divisions for training purposes.

(b) Equipment. Respirators, steel helmets, special anti-gas protective clothing for thousands of designated civil defence workers are now being distributed by the federal government to the provinces. Several thousand stirrup pumps are being provided for training purposes. Training aids such as stretchers, blankets, thunder-flashes, tear-gas capsules and incendiary bombs are being distributed. Special equipment is being supplied to detect after-effects of atomic attack. After extensive research, a prototype rescue vehicle has been chosen.

(c) Health services. Under the direction of a special federal unit, the program for health services is making good progress. Federal committees are working on such vital problems as casualty services, first aid, hospital and ambulance services, the provision of laboratory and sanitary services in time of enemy attack, the creation of first aid stations and the large-scale stockpiling of supplies and so on. Nearly 200 physicians and 25 nurses have been given training as instructors in medical aspects of atomic war. A travelling team now moving across Canada is training 400 nurse-instructors this year.

On Monday I attended the third conference of the federal civil defence casualty services working party, representing professional associations of Canada's doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, as well as national voluntary health associations and federal departments. I may say that this was a most interesting and active meeting.

(4) Welfare services. A special federal unit is working in the field of civil defence welfare services. The care of the homeless, the evacuation of casualties, the housing,