

At the staff colleges it is planned to place great emphasis on combined operations so that personnel of the three services will be accustomed to working with one another in peace as they did in war.

COMPOSITION OF ARMED FORCES

The international situation, the proposals made at the recent session of the United Nations, and the rapid changes in types of weapons, are among the considerations which make it undesirable at this time to settle finally the composition or character of the future armed forces of Canada. The year 1947 is regarded as a period during which the defence forces will be established on a sound administrative basis, capable of being adapted or developed to meet all possible changing circumstances. The defence organization will be kept on a flexible basis to fit in with any plan of general security or general disarmament as called for by the United Nations and the defence needs of Canada.

Changing circumstances in the world make this a difficult year in which to plan what should be done. The whole situation is under continuous review so as to insure the greatest possible security for the Canadian people at the lowest possible cost. Our armed forces would not be large but they would be good. We wanted no frills but the same kind of tough efficiency as had won for our forces a reputation second to none.

For these reasons it is not intended to recruit personnel to an extent greater than 75% of the numbers set for planning purposes a year ago. The Navy and the Air Force have approximately reached 75% of these figures and consequently they are not taking on additional personnel except those with special qualifications. The Army, not having reached its figure, is accepting recruits for the time being.

During the war it was necessary to acquire a large number of Defence establishments of various kinds, including the organization required for the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Only some of these establishments are needed for the post-war forces. The rest are being disposed of rapidly.

In Europe today there is practically speaking not a single piece of Canadian material of war. The remaining establishments and stores in Canada are being constantly reviewed and all surplus turned over to War Assets Corporation. This procedure is already well advanced and is being accelerated.

The Armed Forces are postponing all new construction not absolutely essential.

The Reserve Forces are an important element in the post-war defence forces. Many ex-servicemen joined the Reserves and Auxiliaries and will make their training and experience available to the younger recruits.

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(B.K./n.p.)