

posted from the regular active force they form the Canadian Army Special Force. Appropriate arrangements will be made for officers and men who wish to do so to become part of the regular force.

One unit of the special force, the second battalion of the Princess Patricia's, is in Korea.

The remainder of the special force is continuing its training at Fort Lewis and will be available for service where required.

#### Western Europe

Without minimizing the significance of the character of the fighting in Korea, it is the view of this and the other allied governments that the vital centre of our global defence is in Western Europe. It was in recognition of this strategic necessity that the North Atlantic Treaty was entered into by twelve nations less than two years ago.

#### North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Because of its importance to Canada, it is necessary to deal for a few minutes with the development of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

People are apt to overlook how rapid has been the acceleration that has taken place in the march of events. It was only at the meeting of the council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, held at New York as recently as last September, that the United States gave great leadership in suggesting the establishment in Western Europe of an integrated force under a supreme commander. The United States representatives stated that if such a force were created the United States would add substantially to the number of American troops in Europe. This proposal for the first time created the possibility of having in Europe forces strong enough to deter aggression. That was barely five months ago.

You will remember that in the treaty the member nations agreed that an act of aggression against any of them would be an act of aggression against all, to be resisted by all. To effect co-ordination under the treaty there was the Council of Foreign Ministers. There were also set up a committee of defence ministers, a committee of finance ministers, a military production and supply board, with numerous subordinate committees, and a committee of deputies of the council. This organization was elaborate enough on the civilian side but it was duplicated on the military side by the military committee of the chiefs of staff of all twelve nations with an executive standing group representing the chiefs of staff of Britain, France and the United States. In addition, there were five regional groups each with corresponding military set-ups. It is not surprising that there has been criticism of this organization as over-elaborate, but progress is being made in its simplification.

#### NATO Progress

At its September meeting the council approved the American suggestions and referred them to the defence ministers.