

a kind of military executive, consists of high military officers of the three big powers - the United States, the United Kingdom and France. They constitute for most purposes what we knew in the last war as the Combined Chiefs of Staff. The other nine of us are represented in matters military by the direct agents of our national Chiefs of Staff. These military representatives of ours have continuing access to the Standing Group in the development of NATO plans.

Those of us in Canada who have had to do with the organization of NATO, have long felt that a simpler structure, on the civil side particularly, would much better meet the need for prompt and effective direction of the Alliance. Canadian proposals for simplifying the present complicated machinery have been favourably received by our partners. And we have good reason to hope that, before many months, the whole mechanism will be greatly simplified by concentration of authority under a single top body - a Council of Governments.

When the Foreign Ministers and the Defence Ministers of NATO met in Brussels just before Christmas a new pressure of urgency was evident from the outset. The reason of course was Korea and the conclusion that all had drawn from the events of the previous few months that the Soviet government were prepared to run the risk of a third world war to attain their imperialist objectives. From this sense of urgency and because of this common re-appraisal of increased, more imminent common danger, the products of the Brussels meetings were the most substantial thus far in the history of NATO. Brussels, it seems to me, marked the change-over of NATO from the stage of plans to the stage of action. It had been known before that an "integrated" force for the defence of Western Europe was being planned. The principle had been accepted. But at Brussels the appointment of General Eisenhower breathed life and hope into what, until then, had been but a mere paper project. It is true that, to begin with, the Supreme Commander Allied Powers, Europe, (SCAPE as he is called) had little to command. But at Brussels the Americans, the British and the French announced their immediate assignment to General Eisenhower of such forces as they then had available, and other nations, including Canada, gave indications of their intentions to make substantial contributions of ground and air elements. And all the members of NATO reported in varying positive terms "the build up" which they were undertaking of their own national forces.

Further, it was at Brussels that an important step forward was taken in the vital matter of war supplies. The Defence Production Board was established to develop and rationalize a genuine NATO production programme under which national industrial resources are to be brought more effectively to the essential and urgent business of putting arms into the hands of those who stand with us.

General Eisenhower's tour of all the North Atlantic countries at the beginning of this year has put fresh heart into the Alliance. When the General returned to the United States he was able to report that, given unity in spirit and action, the job of NATO - the defence of the West - could be done. His dynamic presence in the European capitals had a remarkable effect on the morale of the Western Allies. Combined with the turn of the United Nations fortunes in Korea, the establishment of NATO's supreme command near Paris has achieved a substantial upswing toward that solid confidence which is the first prerequisite of success.