

While changing conditions and requirements have gradually altered the magnitude and content of Canada's Mutual Aid Programme, it continues to constitute an important contribution in the building up of NATO military strength. The annual dollar value of the programme has declined in recent years to an estimated \$40,800,000 in the fiscal year 1961-62. This is due mainly to the gradual depletion of Canadian surplus stocks of weapons and equipment and to the successful completion in July 1958 of the NATO Air Training Plan carried out at RCAF establishments in Canada, which graduated a total of over 5,800 pilots and navigators from ten member countries. A limited number of air crew from European countries are continuing their training in Canada under special agreements. The reduction of the Mutual Aid Programme has, of course, been paralleled by the development of European forces and their national sources of supply.

It is also relevant to note the potential mutual aid aspects of the "Swap Deal" concluded with the United States in June 1961, details of which were announced by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons at the time. Under this agreement, the United States will procure in Canada a number of F-104 aircraft, associated equipment and initial spares to a total value of \$200 million, of which the United States' share will be \$150 million and the Canadian share \$50 million. These planes will enable Canada and the United States to make a significant contribution to the collective strength of NATO under their respective mutual aid and defence assistance programmes.

#### Non-Military Work of NATO - Political Co-operation

As mentioned above, Article 2 of the Treaty provided the basis on which collaboration in non-military fields could be built. Steps have been taken to strengthen non-military co-operation in NATO, particularly through improved consultations between members. To this end, a Committee of Political Advisers, a Committee of Economic Advisers, and a Science Committee were established at NATO headquarters. These committees exchange views on common problems in their separate fields, and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the NATO Permanent Council.

With other member countries, Canada has emphasized the importance of political consultation within the Alliance. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, has said that "we are encouraged by the considerable progress which has been achieved." "It is now accepted practice", he added "that member states should not, without advance consultation, adopt firm policies or make major political pronouncements on matters which significantly affect the Alliance or any of its members. This is a necessary prerequisite to a sense of mutual confidence which true interdependence entails in a grouping of states of varying sizes and responsibilities. For the action of any one member can affect - even vitally - the security and welfare of all...".

In practice, political co-operation in NATO ranges from a general exchange of views and information to intensive consultations with a view to co-ordinating policies on matters of common concern, e.g. Berlin. A major item on which there has been political consultation during recent months is the Berlin question, and Canada has made known its views on the desirability of the West entering into negotiations with the U.S.S.R. on the Berlin problem as soon as possible. There have also been extensive discussions on developments in the Congo, and Canada has made it clear that it strongly supports the efforts of the UN to achieve a long-term settlement of this problem. Other important questions discussed