

We shall take out of commission the carrier Bonaventure and the escort maintenance ship Cape Scott in 1970. We shall retain most of the Tracker aircraft from the carrier for land based operations until 1973. We shall retain the Cape Scott as an "alongside" workshop and accommodation facility in the dockyard in Halifax for the foreseeable future and we shall dispose of the Bonaventure as surplus.

Plans are continuing for bringing into service our second new operational-support ship and the four helicopter-destroyers now being built. The manning of three existing destroyer escorts will be reduced to training levels over the next two years.

We shall retain our Argus long-range patrol aircraft and increase their role in the Arctic, while continuing their mid-ocean surveillance duties. We shall employ our Tracker aircraft from shore bases on a coastal surveillance role until they are disposed of in 1973. We plan to replace the Argus after 1973.

Mobile Command

Mobile Command forces in Canada will remain at approximately their present level but will be re-structured in 1970 from four combat groups to three (with headquarters in Calgary, Petawawa and Valcartier) and we shall form a task force headquarters, initially at Gagetown (present location of the fourth combat group headquarters), for subsequent location in the Far North.

The Airborne Regiment is being retained and will have three Commandos instead of the present two. The third Commando is being formed in the battle group in Europe, where it will share infantry duties with the 1st Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment.

Infantry battalions in the combat groups will again have their normal four companies, rather than the present three. We are re-equipping our artillery and armored regiments in the combat groups with the "airportable" artillery and "airportable" armored vehicles. Some heavy mechanized equipment is being retained at Gagetown as training support for our interim land force in Europe.

We shall move the Combat Arms School from Borden to Gagetown and we shall move the Artillery School from Shilo to Gagetown, where it will become part of the Combat Arms School.

As part of the re-configuration in Europe in 1970, we shall return the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, to Canada and station them at Shilo and return the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, and station them at Gagetown.

We are budgeting over the next few years for some 2,500 new 1½-ton trucks to modernize our land-force vehicle fleet and have recently signed a contract for 50 Bell Utility Tactical Transport Helicopters (UTTH) to be used primarily in Mobile Command. These twin-engine helicopters will be powered by Canadian-built engines from United Aircraft of Canada. Delivery will begin in 1971.