

CANADA'S DEFENCE PROGRAMME

COSTS EXCEED \$5,000,000,000: Canada's defence objectives are: (1) The immediate defence of Canada and North America from direct attack; (2) implementation of any undertakings made by Canada under the Charter of the United Nations, or under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or other agreement for collective security; and (3) the organization to build up strength in a total war, it was reiterated in a White Paper tabled in the House of Commons by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, on May 17.

"The most probable method of attack upon North America by a hostile power would be by air," the White Paper states. "Recent indications confirm the fact that the U.S.S.R. has made further progress in the fields of atomic and other nuclear weapons and in the development of long range bombing potential. Canada and the United States, consequently, remain determined to continue to take all reasonable measures for adequate defence of the North American continent. The element of surprise tends today to give a would-be aggressor an even more significant advantage than in the past.

AIR DEFENCE

"Insofar as effective air defence is concerned, it is of paramount importance that three sets of operations should be successfully integrated. These are: first, the prompt detection and identification of the enemy by radar, ground observers, or other means; second, the communications of this intelligence inwards to a command centre and the outward communication of orders and intelligence to air and ground defence units and to civil defence authorities; finally, trained personnel, aircraft and anti-aircraft weapons must be able to annihilate or drive off the attackers. It is towards the fullest practicable realization of these ends that the joint efforts of Canada and the United States have been, and will continue to be, directed.

"Defence against air attack is only one part (though a very important part) of the various measures that must be taken for defence of the continent of North America against direct attack; and continental defence and the build-up of the strength of the North Atlantic nations in Western Europe must be carried on at the same time as part of the one general operation of preserving peace and preventing aggression by having the strength, actual and potential, to make it plain that aggression will not pay.

Under the heading of "Air Force" it reports, in part:

"In the past year considerable progress has been made in the construction of the joint Canadian-U.S. network of radar stations to provide early warning and communications faci-

lities for directing squadrons of fighters. New radar installations of the most modern and powerful type have replaced practically all of the temporary mobile facilities which were in use since the Second World War. A number of installations, primarily of usefulness in the defence of the United States, have been manned by U.S. personnel. Additional capacity for protection against air attack is being provided as a supplement to the radar chain, without undue expense as to money, materials and manpower. In this connection the equipment known as the 'McGill Fence' has been developed and tested extensively, largely by McGill University in co-operation with the Defence Research Board. United States authorities have been kept fully informed of this project from the beginning.

"Substantial progress has been made in the formation of the Ground Observers Corps. . . .

"The build-up of regular and auxiliary fighter squadrons continues. Thirty-seven of the forty-one squadrons previously planned in the Canadian Defence Programme are now organized and the balance will be established this year as scheduled. . . ."

STRIKING FORCE

Army: "The Mobile Striking Force is maintained for defence against surprise airborne attack. The Army component of this force now consists of battle-experienced infantry battalions returned from service in Korea, supported by airborne units of artillery, engineers, signals, Army Service Corps and medicals."

Navy: "For the protection of shipping and the defence of Canadian coastal areas and harbours, the Royal Canadian Navy had in commission fifty-eight ships during the period March 31, 1953, to March 31, 1954. . . ."

In introductory paragraphs to the detailed report on Canada's defence efforts it is stated, in part:

"The past year has seen very substantial accomplishments in Canada's defence programme announced by the Minister of National Defence on February 5, 1951. The programme has been subject to constant review and, as necessary, some modifications have been made to meet varying demands inherent in Canada's commitments. . . .

"Although there have been indications in recent months of some relaxation in international tension, the need for Canada, in common with other nations of the free world, to maintain adequate defence forces remains a matter of vital importance. . . .

"The need for continuing vigilance on the part of the nations of the free world and for the necessary strength to support their aspirations for peace is to be found, to go back no further, in the lessons of the uncertain