

*Supply—National Defence*

Department of National Defence various civil defence powers, duties and functions which will provide for a system of warning the public of attack, determining location of nuclear explosions and fall-out patterns, assessing damage and casualties, re-entry and rescue. The Department of National Defence will be responsible for all re-entry operations in seriously damaged or contaminated areas. The department has also been given the tasks of providing emergency support to provincial and municipal authorities for the maintenance of law and order and the maintenance and operation of emergency communications facilities.

The Canadian army is the designated service responsible for the conduct of survival operations, and will be assisted by such elements of the R.C.N. and R.C.A.F. as can be made available for this task. A director general of survival operations has been appointed to head the army organization which will be responsible for the role which was first referred to in the defence report issued in April.

In the event of attack on Canada, communication with all parts of the country would be essential. In consequence, arrangements are being made to ensure that if the main communication facilities should be interrupted, alternative means will be available.

On September 1 the Department of National Defence will assume full responsibility for the operation of the warning system in Canada. This will involve obtaining the information from the appropriate source and transmitting the warning in the shortest possible time to provincial authorities, probable target areas, military headquarters and installations, and all segments of population likely to be affected. Warning will deal with the threat of direct attack and will also provide information on location of nuclear explosions and resulting radioactive fall-out which may follow such an attack. Detailed studies are now under way aimed at providing the fastest and most effective system within our capability.

The Canadian army has organized a number of mobile support columns within the regular army and the militia. These columns will be based on major units and training establishments in the regular army. In the militia they will be based on groups of units. Each column contains rescue companies and such other elements as will permit them to perform re-entry and rescue tasks, as well as supplying manpower for maintenance of law and order and such other internal operations as may be necessary under conditions of war. Mobile support columns will be grouped into task forces.

Rescue training sets are being issued to these mobile columns. Provision is being made for additional equipment to be provided early in 1960. Requirements for communications equipment for national survival have been established and arrangements for procurement are being made on a priority basis. The requirement for radiation detection equipment has been established. Industry, however, is as yet unable to meet the standards in all cases. Action is being taken on a priority basis to obtain suitable equipment as it becomes available, and it is expected that substantial deliveries will be made this year. Some radiac equipment suitable for training has been issued.

Detailed examination of other items of equipment normally held by the army is being carried out with a view to providing adequate scaling for survival operations for all troops involved.

National survival training was introduced to all components of the Canadian army in 1957. Since then emphasis in training has been placed on rescue and radiation monitoring. To date over 750 armed forces personnel have received survival training at the civil defence college at Arnprior and over 1,000 at the joint atomic, bacteriological and chemical school at Camp Borden. The army commands across Canada have conducted numerous courses to provide instructors in rescue operations. Twelve simulated disaster areas have been constructed for practical training of instructors, and provision is being made for an additional 21.

Army headquarters have prepared and issued training directives and provisional training instructions in all aspects of national survival training. These instructions will soon be incorporated in training manuals in both English and French. There have been numerous exercises conducted by both the regular army and the militia on national survival operations with encouraging results, and there can be no doubt that the forces have embarked on training for their new role with realism and enthusiasm.

In the context of what I have said the importance of research and development is more than ever apparent. In the present military environment and for the future, research has and must continue to have a major role in defence planning. In fact our hope of survival may well rest in the hands of the defence scientist.

The defence research board works in very close co-operation with our major NATO partners, and because of its contributions to the common pool of knowledge obtains much greater benefits than could otherwise accrue. Active projects in upper atmospheric physics,