

MORE TOMMIES TO TRAIN IN CANADA

Agreement on a ten-year plan providing for the increased use of Canadian military training facilities by British soldiers and airmen has been reached by Ottawa and London.

Large-scale army training at Suffield, Alberta, and Royal Marine training at Gagetown, New Brunswick, are new features of the agreement. The continuation of existing Royal Air Force flying-training out of Goose Bay, Labrador, and military training at other major Canadian Forces Bases on a scale close to that of recent years is also covered.

British armed forces have trained in Canada during the past ten years but on a smaller scale and only under separate arrangements. The new agreement embraces this training and provides for increased activity. It is the first large-scale long-range agreement for military training to be worked out between the two countries since the end of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan of the Second World War.

PROGRAM

The training areas to be used by the British will be under the command and control of the Canadian Forces and the whole plan will be conducted within the provisions of the Visiting Forces Act and the NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

The full costs of the training, including expenses for the Canadian administrative staff involved, will be borne by the British.

The Royal Marine training at Gagetown will involve one commando group of some 700 personnel, along with a helicopter squadron using the existing Gagetown facilities for up to five weeks each year.

The Goose Bay flying training usually involves about 120 aircraft visits during any one year. Two or three at a time stay at Goose Bay for nine or ten days and conduct flying training near there. A 150-man RAF detachment now at Goose Bay will remain there.

The program for Suffield, 30 miles north west of Medicine Hat, is much larger. While the Defence Research Establishment will continue, a Canadian Forces Base also will be established within the military reservation. The Base will be under the command of a Canadian colonel and will provide, beginning in May 1972, for the training of British troops in groups of 600 to 1,000 at a time. Each group will stay in the Suffield area for about three weeks. Training will be conducted between May and November, using equipment permanently located at Suffield. A small permanent British staff will remain year-round.

The training involves the firing of conventional weapons including tank guns, artillery, and anti-tank weapons. A variety of battleruns for all arms will be used by British forces in accordance with Canadian range and safety regulations. These will cover an

area of some two-thirds of the 1,000-square-mile military reservation.

A building-and-procurement program to develop the required training facilities at Suffield will begin this autumn. In all, about \$2 million is expected to be spent on the program. Annual payroll for the permanent Canadian and British military staff and additional civilians hired locally will amount to over \$1 million annually.

DRB NOT AFFECTED

The project at Suffield will not conflict with the Canadian Forces training plan or the Defence Research Establishment there. The DRB Establishment will continue its current defence research activities at Suffield as well as special projects such as a current one involving the destruction of DDT stockpiles. There is no relation between DRB activities at Suffield and the British training program. The Suffield area is the only military reservation in Canada large enough to conduct the training the British require.

Discussions are being held with the federal Department of the Environment and provincial authorities to ensure that specific training areas within the Suffield area as a whole are selected with due regard to wildlife and other ecological considerations.

TOOTHPASTE-TUBE STANDARDS

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Ron Basford has announced a new simplified system for the sizes of toothpaste tubes, designed to help consumers make better price comparisons between brands and tube sizes.

"Toothpaste will be sold in only six sizes, instead of the close to 30 sizes now on the market," Mr. Basford stated. "This major contribution to eliminating confusion for the consumer has been developed through consultation with the toothpaste manufacturers and the Toilet Goods Manufacturers Association."

Mr. Basford said that the six new sizes would be marked by volume of paste in the tube, not by weight as at present. "This standardization of sizes will help consumers to make better price comparisons between brands and sizes," he said.

The Minister also drew attention to the fact that the new tube sizes will be marked entirely in the metric system, with the volume given in millilitres — 25ml, 50ml, 75ml, 100ml, 125ml, and 150ml. "This is a step towards eventual metrication of all measurements in Canada, and I hope that other product manufacturers will follow this lead as they standardize their containers," Mr. Basford said.

The manufacturers have also undertaken, in their packaging and advertising, to drop the use of nomenclature such as "giant" and "family-size" which