

turn out to be too elaborate and expensive. You ask your architect in the interests of economy to modify his more ambitious plans. At the same time it may be possible by ingenuity and by rearrangement of space and facilities to have a house which incorporates all the essential features. In the meanwhile the builders are going on with the construction of the house and you hope soon to have a roof over your head. That is what happened at Lisbon. We modified our plans but we got on with the building.

What actually did we decide in getting on with that building? I should like to quote a paragraph from this well-known press statement which has been quoted already in this House and which deals with our programme for 1952. It reads:

"The NATO nations agreed to provide approximately fifty divisions in appropriate conditions of combat readiness and 4,000 operational aircraft in western Europe, as well as strong naval forces."

Those are the only figures that have been authorized. The programme authorized in those figures represented, as stated in our resolution at Lisbon accepting it, the targets to be adopted as forming the goals for 1952, whereas we adopted only provisional goals for 1953 and goals to be used for planning purposes in 1954. Each country represented at Lisbon is pledged to do its utmost to implement these recommendations....

The vagueness of this paragraph has been criticized. It is obvious the paragraph is vague. I admitted that the other day in the House and of course I admit it now. Conscious of that fact, efforts were made almost at once to clarify what that paragraph meant. In the House the other day I repeated statements of clarification from the foreign secretary of the United Kingdom and from the Defence secretary of the United States. Within twenty-four hours of the issuing of that statement there was also a broadcast over the CBC, from which I quote as follows:

"The TCC report calls for approximately fifty divisions by the end of the year, the first time that official use of such a figure has been made in public. It was explained, however that this does not refer to fifty divisions maintained in combat readiness. Some will be in combat readiness, others outfitted and equipped and capable of being brought into combat readiness in short order...."

There was no Canadian press service represented at Lisbon during our Council meetings. As I said the other day, there were statements issued in London and Washington. Last week, in Washington, Mr. Lovett referred to the earlier statements and I should like to read a couple of paragraphs from his presentation to Congress in connection with the mutual aid programme which was before Congress at that time. ... Mr. Lovett spoke as follows:

"I have previously stated that somewhat more than half of these divisions will be combat ready, while the remainder will be reserve divisions. A reserve division on the continental pattern differs from our American concept of the nature of a reserve division. The continental reserve division has its organization complete,