

## CANADA'S SPECIAL FORCE AVAILABLE IN EUROPE

**MR. ST. LAURENT'S KINGSTON ADDRESS:** The following is an excerpt from the address of the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, at the Royal Military College Club of Canada Annual Meeting at Kingston, Ont., on September 30:

"The creation of the Special Force means that from now on we will have a Canadian Force in being available to assist, without undue delay, in discharging a part of our obligations under the UN Charter and the North Atlantic Treaty. At the present time the Force is being trained for service in Korea, if that seems to be the right place to send it when it is trained and ready. But there are other areas in the world; for what has happened in Korea might be repeated, and it might be that our Special Force would be despatched to some entirely different place if circumstances warranted and Parliament approved.

### DETERRENT FORCE

"Provided the Korean incident is successfully terminated before too long a time has elapsed, the Special Force would be available for service as part of a deterrent force in Europe, if its employment there would fit in effectively with the joint plans. Meanwhile, as you all know, the most important obstacle to the creation on the Continent of Europe of extensive ground forces is the shortage of equipment and of the capacity to produce equipment, weapons and supplies. I don't need to tell you either that, speaking generally, it takes longer to get into large-scale production than it does to train men to a fighting pitch. For the immediate future, therefore, so far as Europe is concerned, there is a most urgent need for military supplies to be put into the hands of the men who are already there.

"Now I must admit I have been rather surprised to see that this point has been misinterpreted in certain quarters and that it has been suggested that Canadians are going to be too busy producing munitions to do any of the fighting. It seems to me Canada's proud record of participation in two world wars is a simple and sufficient answer to any such suggestion. But at present there is no fighting going on in Europe, and what we are concerned about is trying to prevent another war starting over there, and that means putting up the best possible evidence of united ability and

readiness to resist and overcome any possible aggression.

"To help at once to meet the pressing need for armed forces on our side in Europe, the Government recommended to Parliament earlier this month that \$300,000,000 be appropriated to provide munitions and supplies for our partners in the North Atlantic Treaty, and Parliament overwhelmingly approved that recommendation.

"At the same time and in addition to producing and providing munitions and supplies, we are strengthening all our own forces as rapidly as possible. We are pressing on with recruitment for our own regular forces; we are raising their ceilings as we go along. We have in training here at R.M.C., in the Universities and elsewhere a large number of officers for the three services. We are speeding up planned rates of production in nearly every line of military equipment. We are proceeding with the putting into commission of ships in the Navy just as fast as men can be trained and the ships can be successively modernized, and we are also procuring a number of new ships. Our training facilities as well are being enlarged.

### F86 FIGHTERS

"As you know, we are producing the F86 fighters and the 'Canuck', the only two seater jet propelled fighter of its kind in the world. To provide additional immediate combat strength we have bought a large number of fighter aircraft from the United States. In addition to our own men we are training here in Canada, in increasingly large numbers, aircrew and army officers from the United Kingdom and several countries in Western Europe....

"Despite the gloomy outlook in the world at the present time, I remain an optimist about the possibilities of a third world war. I may be wrong but I have always thought that we are likely to hasten the coming of such a catastrophe if in our own minds we regard it as inevitable. But we must face the facts, all the facts, and while trying to build for the future and make this earth a better place to live in for those who come after us, we cannot afford to be unprepared to deal successfully with those evil forces whose aim is to undermine, by every means, our free way of life...."

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**SPECIAL FORCE ANTI-TANK GUN:** Infantry units of the Canadian Army Special Force are to be equipped with the famed 17-pounder anti-tank gun, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton announced on October 4. The British-designed weapon will replace the present in-

fantry 6-pounder. This move will add more anti-tank "punch" to the three infantry battalions of the Force. It was recently announced by Mr. Claxton that units would also be equipped with the new United States 3.5 rocket launcher.