

NATIONAL DEFENCE HQ CUTS

The following statement was made on October 6 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer:

In the White Paper on Defence [published in March of this year], it was stated that "the present headquarters organization of the Department of National Defence is too large. The fact that our field forces are modest creates a serious unbalance between the field and headquarters branches of the service. As it appears that we will have to maintain modest forces in being for many years to come, it is apparent that a re-organization is required".

The White Paper went on to state that the solution was considered to be "the integration of the Armed Forces of Canada under a single Chief of Defence Staff and a single Defence Staff. This will be the first step toward a single unified defence force for Canada".

Subsequently, by Bill C-90, this integration of the Canadian Forces Headquarters became effective on 1 August 1964. Since that time, the Chief of Defence Staff and his senior staff officers have been developing their plans for the complete re-organization and integration of the headquarters on functional lines.

POSITIONS TO BE ELIMINATED

The plans for the re-organization of Canadian Forces Headquarters are already well advanced and it is now possible to identify some of the significant reductions which will be made in the numbers of personnel. There is a reasonable prospect that something in the area of 1000 military positions, which represents approximately 30 per cent of the Canadian Forces Headquarters, can be eliminated.

In order that an orderly and progressive rundown of strength between now and the summer of 1965 can be achieved, a certain flexibility has been allowed the Defence Staff to work towards the final reduced strength over the year ahead.

At the time Bill C-90 became law, the numbers of officers of the rank of major-general and above in the authorized establishment at Canadian Forces Headquarters was reduced from 17 to 12.

NEXT PHASE OF REDUCTION

This statement concerns the next phase of the reduction, which encompasses the ranks from brigadier down to major. In achieving this rundown, two factors will be effective. Officers and men will be leaving the Armed Forces on reaching compulsory retirement age. This factor in itself will look after a sizable

COMMONWEALTH ARTS FESTIVAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has announced the acceptance by the Canadian Government of an invitation from the Commonwealth Festival Society to participate in the Commonwealth Arts Festival, which will take place in Britain from September 16 to October 2, 1965.

Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Festival is the Duke of Edinburgh. The aim of the Festival is to forge cultural links between countries of the Commonwealth that will supplement those already

proportion of the reduction. In order to obtain the full reduction required in a reasonable length of time and to maintain an adequate flow of promotion in all ranks of the Services, the special gratuity plan was authorized to give those prematurely retired a cash benefit to assist them to rehabilitate themselves.

The officers receiving releases will be advised privately by letter. The first letter will go out from Ottawa about 1 November 1964, the next group about 1 February 1965, and the third about 1 May 1965. All of the personnel concerned will receive a minimum of three months' notice of their retirement. Although the reductions in establishment are being made in Canadian Forces Headquarters, the officers who will be prematurely retired may, at present, be occupying appointments elsewhere in the Armed Forces.

The approximate number of premature releases which will be made between 1 November 1964 and the summer of 1965 will be as follows:

- Brigadier or equivalent - up to 7
- Colonel or equivalent - up to 15
- Lieutenant-colonel or equivalent - up to 40
- Major or equivalent - up to 60

The planning for reductions in officer ranks of captain and below and for other ranks has not yet been completed, but the indications are that relatively few personnel in these rank levels will be released prematurely up to July 1965.

I would here like to re-emphasize that there is no question as to the loyalty, efficiency and faithful service of those who will be affected.

At the same time as these cutbacks are being made, it is essential for the future of the Armed Forces that a reasonable flow of promotions is maintained. The plan which has been devised recognizes this and ensures that good careers will continue to be available to those who remain in the Services.

CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF RECRUITING

It is equally essential for the future that the Armed Forces obtain the numbers of recruits, both officer cadets and men, that they require to sustain the Services. Even though cutbacks are being made, the Navy, Army and Air Force have a pressing need for recruits today and will continue to offer young men challenging and satisfying careers. One of the objectives of the reduction is to make funds available for new equipment. It is the recruits of today who will be trained to operate and maintain this new equipment the Armed Forces will be getting.

existing in politics, economics, education, science and other fields. Designed to reveal the diversity of the cultural traditions of the various countries of the Commonwealth, the Festival will cover music, theatre, dancing, the visual arts, the folk arts and crafts, film and television film, architecture, and industrial design. It is hoped that the 1965 Festival will be followed by similar events every few years in other countries of the Commonwealth.

The choice of Canadian artists and artistic groups to participate in the Festival will be made on the basis of advice from sources consulted by the Canada Council.