

Air Training Agreements with Norway and Denmark

ALTHOUGH its NATO Air Training Programme concluded in 1958, Canada has continued to provide a limited amount of training for Norwegian and Danish aircrew students. This was prompted by a desire on the part of the Canadian Government to help meet the needs of some NATO countries that needed further assistance in making the transition to a suitable national training scheme. The Governments of Norway and Denmark having indicated a need for such assistance, agreements were reached on April 17, 1957, with both countries for the continuation, for a reasonable time, of limited Canadian training facilities for Norwegian and Danish aircrew students.

The 1957 agreements provided that, at some mutually convenient time during their third year, discussions would take place on a bilateral basis on the need or otherwise of extending them for a further period. Following discussions with the Danish and Norwegian authorities, the Canadian Government expressed its willingness to extend the agreements for a further four-year period beginning July 1, 1960, under the original terms and conditions. A formal exchange of notes to renew the 1957 agreement took place in Copenhagen on March 25, 1960, between the Canadian Ambassador in Denmark, Mr. J. B. C. Watkins, and the Danish Foreign Minister, Mr. A. Krag. A similar exchange took place in Oslo on April 6, 1960, between the Canadian Ambassador in Norway, Dr. R. A. MacKay, and the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Mr. H. Lange.

As a result, training to "wings" standard will be provided annually to thirty student pilots and three student navigators from Norway and to forty-five student pilots from Denmark. These figures represent a slight reduction in the number of students from these two countries who were trained annually under the 1957 agreements. A token charge of \$5,000 for each student-pilot entrant and of \$2,000 for each student-navigator entrant will continue to be made by Canada. The balance of the costs will be defrayed, as before, by Canada, as part of its NATO Mutual Aid Programme.

The renewal of the aircrew training agreements with Norway and Denmark is a further tangible evidence of the importance attached by the Canadian Government to close co-operation with its NATO partners in constructive measures to maintain and improve the defensive strength of the alliance.