

Completion of this massive re-organization of the three different supply systems of the armed services into one automated system will take three to five years. Meanwhile, current organizations for supplying the forces must be maintained so that there is no interference with operational commitments.

Canadian Forces Bases

As a natural follow-on to the establishment of the functional commands, we undertook on 1 April this year the transfer of all armed forces regular units in Canada to the appropriate command headquarters. Mobile Command, Maritime Command, Air Transport Command and Materiel Command will each have five bases under their control. Training Command will be responsible for 13 bases; with Air Defence Command having six. The total will be 39 major Canadian forces bases across the country.

This Canadian forces base consolidation will provide the services and support for other ledger units on the station should they exist. This base consolidation will eventually provide considerable savings in dollars and manpower and more important will permit the forces to carry out their functional duties in a more responsive manner.

Meanwhile, the army's four geographic command headquarters and twelve area headquarters are being phased out. The previous area headquarters have been replaced by smaller district offices responsible for the command and control of militia and cadets, and report directly to the Deputy Chiefs for Reserves at the Canadian Forces Headquarters. These district offices also have the responsibility for national survival and aid to the civil powers.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have given the members of the Standing Committee on National Defence a fairly comprehensive view of what has been accomplished by the Canadian Forces since I last appeared before the Special Committee on Defence.

Summary

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the integration of the Armed Forces is now well advanced. The 1964 White Paper on Defence gave the broad government policy directives towards the creation of this new force and I am very proud of the enthusiasm with which these policy directives have been formulated into concrete terms.

We have now reached the stage for final steps toward a single unified force as forecast in the White Paper. Naturally these considerations raise delicate problems of a single walking-out uniform, rank designation, the name of the force, and so on. Because of the myriad of details which must be carefully studied, no final decision has been taken as yet, although these questions are under very active consideration.

I think it is obvious to all of us that we could not undertake a re-organization of such magnitude without some problems arising. The differences between the three forces, which had always existed, have become much more noticeable now that the seaman, the airman, and the soldier worked together in the same office.

Integration has not caused but highlighted anomalies and equities among the three services. For instance:

- Different terms of service
- Different trade structure