

CHAPTER XXVIII.—DEFENCE OF CANADA*

CONSPECTUS

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Section 1.—The Department of National Defence

By Mar. 31, 1948, Canada's Department of National Defence had achieved a substantial degree of post-war consolidation. The task of repatriation and demobilization of Second World War troops had been completed. The three Services had been reduced in size to conform to new peacetime establishments and a program for organizing and training extensive reserve forces was well advanced.

Under a single Minister, charged with responsibility for all matters relating to defence, the Department pursued a service unification program aimed at: (1) the adoption of a unified defence program to meet agreed strategic needs; (2) a single defence budget under which funds and resources would be allocated in accordance with the program; (3) the elimination of duplication of services; (4) consistent and equitable personnel policies; (5) greater emphasis on defence research and closer co-ordination with other Government departments and with war industry.

Under direction of the Minister, Service command is exercised by the heads of the Services concerned.

In 1947 progress of the new defence organization was primarily along administrative lines, in keeping with an ever-changing international situation. Co-operation with other nations in matters of defence became increasingly effective. In all matters of international defence relations the first aim of Canadian policy was to prevent war.

The amalgamation of the three Departments and the co-ordination of the three Services began with the establishment of a single National Defence Headquarters at Ottawa. Within this Headquarters, allied components of the Navy, Army and Air Force were interwoven wherever compatible with the interests of efficiency and economy.

Councils and committees that now function with direct relation to the Department of National Defence and the unification program include:—

- (1) **Defence Council.**—*Composition*—Minister of National Defence (Chairman), Parliamentary Assistant, Deputy Minister, Associate Deputy Ministers (two), Service Chiefs of Staff and Chairman of Defence Research Board. *Object*—advising the Minister with regard to administrative matters affecting the Department as a whole or otherwise of inter-Service concern.

* This Chapter, with the exception of the material on the Industrial Defence Board, was revised under the direction of W. Gordon Mills, Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence, Ottawa.