

PART III.—CIVIL DEFENCE*

The accelerating threat of aggression that began shortly after the completion of demobilization following World War II and made necessary the reorganization of military strength, also made apparent the need for the development of a plan of civil defence as part of Canada's program of defence against direct attack. Thus, in October 1948, the Minister of National Defence appointed a Co-ordinator of Civil Defence whose task it was to prepare such a plan. To assist in the co-ordination of the planning, an interdepartmental committee—the Federal Civil Defence Planning Committee—was established, as well as a Federal-Provincial Advisory Committee composed of the federal minister responsible for civil defence as chairman and each provincial minister responsible for civil defence as a member. In February 1951, the administration of civil defence was transferred from the Department of National Defence to the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The Canadian plan was developed after study of similar organizations in the United Kingdom, Western Europe and the United States. It was agreed that civil defence organization should be incorporated within the framework of civil government at each level—federal, provincial and local—each with its own sphere of responsibility. The country is divided into a number of target areas, around each of which is a mutual aid area for immediate support. The territory outside these areas is organized on a mobile support and reception area basis. The channel of communication is from the federal authority to provincial authority and thence to local authority.

The Federal Office of Civil Defence consists of the Civil Defence Co-ordinator and the following services: operations and training, administration and supply, health planning, welfare planning, communications and transportation. A number of other departments are involved in planning, such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Transport and the Defence Research Board.

In co-operation with the Royal Canadian Air Force, an attack-warning system has been established in all target areas and sirens have been provided by the Federal Government. In co-operation with the Departments of National Defence and Veterans Affairs, a program of stockpiling medical supplies and equipment is in progress across Canada.

The Federal Civil Defence Technical Training School has been operating continuously since January 1951, conducting staff courses for organizers, instructors courses (general and rescue), welfare courses and radiological monitoring courses while courses on damage control and tactical operations are being added. In addition, the Federal Government has sponsored a number of specialist courses for medical personnel. During the autumn of 1951, a special medical team traversed Canada conducting training for nurses in Atomic Biological and Chemical warfare. Also, an agreement is in effect with the St. John Ambulance Association to undertake a large-scale program of first-aid training of civil defence workers for which the Federal Government pays a per capita grant.

Federal assistance to the provinces by way of meeting the costs of administration and purchasing operational requirements consists of a grant amounting to eight cents per capita (based on 1951 Census figures) plus an additional six cents

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