

D. M. Fleming; and the Minister of National Defence, the Hon. D. S. Harkness, leading the Canadian delegation. The international situation, particularly with regard to the Soviet-provoked crisis in Berlin, was thoroughly reviewed and approval was given for the resumption of diplomatic contacts with the Soviet Union; hope was expressed that a negotiated settlement could be achieved. The Ministers agreed that rights and obligations confirmed by international agreements could not be written off unilaterally by the Soviet Union concluding a "peace treaty" with a régime of its own creation and they re-affirmed the responsibilities which each member State had assumed for the security and welfare of Berlin. They took note of the defensive strength of the Alliance and agreed that so long as the Communist bloc was unwilling to agree to real disarmament, the Alliance had no alternative but to continue to strengthen their forces and modernize equipment in order to deter Communist aggression and to be able to deal with any form of attack. At the same time, Ministers expressed the hope that, despite the Soviet Government's refusal to accept an effective and universally applicable system of international control, disarmament negotiations when resumed would yield useful results.

Permanent representatives of the member countries met between ministerial meetings to consider the international, political, economic and military developments of concern to the Alliance, review the defence plans of members, deal with expenditures on commonly financed military installations (infrastructure), and study the measures required to provide peacetime readiness and civil defence. Military exercises were held to prove the readiness of the army, navy and air forces assigned to NATO Commands.

Canadian Contributions to NATO.—Support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization during 1961 continued to be one of the foundations of Canadian foreign policy. As its contribution to the military strength of the Alliance, Canada maintains an army brigade and an air division in Europe and supporting forces in Canada. It has assigned a substantial naval force to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) for the defence of the Canada-United States region in case of emergency and participates with the United States in the defence of the North American Continent through the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD).

In June 1961, the Prime Minister announced an agreement between Canada and the United States relating to the defence of the Canada-United States region, an objective of which was to demonstrate the material determination of the two countries to improve the defensive strength of NATO and particularly of NORAD. Under the agreement, Canada, in addition to the stations already under its control, assumed the responsibility for 16 stations of the Pinetree Line which hitherto had rested on the United States. In consideration of these additional responsibilities, the RCAF squadrons allocated to NORAD are being re-equipped with *F-101B* interceptor aircraft, the cost of the equipment and armament for which will be shared on the basis of the United States paying two-thirds and Canada paying one-third. The United States agreed to the procurement in Canada of a number of *F-104G* aircraft, support equipment and initial spares to the total value of \$200,000,000, of which the United States' share will be \$150,000,000 and Canada's share \$50,000,000. These aircraft will enable Canada and the United States to make a significant contribution to the collective strength of NATO under their respective mutual aid and defence assistance programs.

In September, in the light of the deterioration in the international situation and the increase in tension resulting from Soviet pressures over Berlin, steps were taken to strengthen the army brigade and air division assigned to NATO by an increase in personnel and to increase the personnel complement of the naval forces assigned to SACLANT. In addition, to improve the general military effectiveness of forces in Canada, plans were made to increase the strength of the army and air force. The total increase would amount to approximately 15,000 men.

Since 1950, Canada has contributed more than \$1,750,000,000 in mutual aid to European members of NATO. The aid program, consisting of contributions to NATO