

for passing strategic and political guidance to the NATO Supreme Commanders. It is located at Washington, D.C., and is composed of the Chiefs of Staff (or their representatives) of the three major contributors to NATO, the United States, the United Kingdom and France. The other members of NATO are in continuous association with the work of the Standing Group by means of the Military Representatives Committee, which consists of representatives of the national military authorities. Direct military command of the NATO forces has been delegated to the Supreme Commanders. The Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR), is General Alfred M. Gruenther, U.S.A., who succeeded General Matthew B. Ridgway in 1953. He is responsible for the defence of Western Europe which, for this purpose, is divided into a number of subordinate naval, army and air commands. His headquarters (SHAPE) is located near Paris. Admiral L. D. McCormick, U.S.N., is Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic (SACLANT), responsible for the defence of the lines of communication across the Atlantic Ocean, with headquarters at Norfolk, Va. Each of these commands has an integrated staff to which Canadian officers have been appointed.

Annual Review.—An important feature of NATO since the Lisbon meeting of the Council has been the development of procedures for reconciling military requirements with national economic and political capabilities. Useful groundwork for this task was provided by the review of defence plans carried out for the Lisbon meeting by the Temporary Council Committee set up at Ottawa in September 1951. It was, therefore, decided at Lisbon that, in future, the build-up of NATO forces should be approved after annual reviews of member countries' defence programs which would take account of the various economic and financial factors affecting each country's defence effort. The review for 1952 was undertaken by the Council of Permanent Representatives, with the assistance of the International Secretariat and the NATO military agencies, and was completed at the Ministerial session of the Council in April 1953.

Canada's Contributions to NATO.—The NATO countries have taken the almost unprecedented step of establishing, in peacetime, combined forces and military commands. Canada's contribution to these NATO forces include units of all three services. During 1953, 42 ships of the Royal Canadian Navy will become fighting units committed to NATO or required for the defence of coastal waters. The 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, which had gone to Europe before the end of 1951, is stationed in Germany under SACEUR's command. By 1954, the Canadian air contribution will be complete with an air division of four wings, comprising twelve squadrons of Sabre jet aircraft. By the end of April 1953, two of these wings had been assigned to SACEUR at the airfields constructed for them at Grostenquin in France and Zweibruecken in Germany.

Canada's prime responsibility is, of course, the immediate defence of Canada and North America from direct attack. The Canadian forces allocated for this purpose have not been assigned to a NATO command because there is, for the North American region, a NATO planning body, called the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group, but no NATO command. Since Canada is expressly included in the territory of the North Atlantic Treaty, however, all Canadian forces and all expenditures on defence by Canada, with the exception of those involved in Canada's part in the United Nations action in Korea, are in support of NATO. The bulk of Canada's three-year defence program of over \$5,000,000,000 for 1951-54 can, consequently, be regarded as representing Canada's contribution to NATO.