

the basically hostile Soviet policy that had brought NATO into being had been abandoned and, second, that the policy of the NATO countries must therefore be to pursue the twin aims of building the defensive and economic strength and the political unity of the Atlantic Community while at the same time seeking to negotiate on outstanding differences wherever possible.

The meeting in April 1954 was attended by the Foreign Ministers of member governments and its primary purpose was to examine the current international situation and the implications for NATO of recent developments. The Ministers found no evidence that the ultimate aims of the Soviet Union had altered and they therefore agreed, in view of the increasing military strength of the Soviet Union and its satellites, upon the need for continuing efforts, vigilance and unity. The Ministers also adopted, on a Canadian proposal, a procedure designed to develop further the habit of political consultation in the Council. The Council expressed its gratification at the far-reaching steps that had been taken by the United Kingdom and the United States, in public declarations made earlier that month, to ensure close and enduring co-operation with the European Defence Community.

In February 1954, the Council appointed Admiral Jerauld Wright, U.S.N., as Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic to succeed Admiral Lynde D. McCormick.

Canadian Contributions to NATO.—Canada continued in 1953-54 to support NATO with contributions of armed forces to the unified NATO commands, with end-item assistance to other NATO countries and with financial contributions to common budgets.*

The 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in Germany was replaced during 1953 by the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Group. The Canadian air contribution of 12 jet fighter squadrons to SACEUR† was completed in 1953 ahead of schedule. The Canadian contribution of 42 vessels to SACLANT‡ remained unchanged.

For the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, a total of \$324,000,000 was appropriated for Mutual Aid and for 1953-54 Parliament was asked to approve an appropriation of \$300,000,000. Under this program such items as ammunition, military vehicles, radar and radio apparatus, minesweepers and jet aircraft were furnished to other NATO countries both from reserve stocks and, in increasing proportion, direct from current production. In addition, airmen from NATO countries were trained in Canada as part of the Mutual Aid Program. By the end of 1953, 925 pilots and 1,605 navigators from Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom had completed training under this scheme; 965 trainees, including airmen from Turkey and Portugal, were undergoing training in early 1954 and it was planned to offer training for 1,200 airmen each year over the next three years.

The 1953-54 estimates provided for expenditures of \$15,150,000 to cover Canada's share of the cost of NATO common infrastructure programs during the year, \$1,750,000 for Canada's contribution to the budgets of the NATO Military Headquarters, and \$183,000 for the Canadian contribution to the budget of the NATO Civilian Headquarters.

Subsection 4.—Canada and the Colombo Plan

The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia was conceived at the Commonwealth Meeting on Foreign Affairs held at Colombo, Ceylon, Jan. 9-14, 1950. Although the Colombo Plan was initiated

* Contributions made in 1952-53 are given in the 1954 Year Book, pp. 115-116.

† Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

‡ Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.