Nato's Military Command Divided Into 44 Divisions

NATO, the united effort of 15 nations to defend themselves from possible Russian agression, now is in its second decade. After 10 year, how smooth are its administrative channels? Here's a report, last in a series of four articles.

By BEM PRICE

PARIS (AP) — The military command structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization consists of nine major commands divided into 44 sub-commands.

All are bossed by a 15-nation political council in which each member has an absolute veto.

Tiny Iceland, for example, can veto a decision by the 14 other member nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

The only way the NATO nations can get around such a veto is by agreements outside the NATO structure.

Further, within the NATO military organization itself a senior officer from one nation cannot give a direct order to a junior officer from another. He can only request his co-operation.

CAN COMPLAIN

If the senior officer complains vigorously enough about lack of co-operation, the junior probably will be transferred. It has happened.

NATO exercises no direct command over any troops or any air forces in peacetime. While troops and aircraft are responsible to NATO operations, direct control is retained by the various nations. In time of war, each nation has to decide for itself hether to release forces to NATO operation control.

While NATO is hailed as a great co-operative enterprise, it sometimes falls short of its goal.

For example, NATO is dependent upon the separate intelligence services of the 15 participating nations for information on what the Russians are doing. NATO has no organic, operating intelligence service of its own.

The NATO Supreme Commander, U.S. Gen. Lauris Norstad, relies chiefly on U.S. military sources for intelligence information. He is briefed regularly by the U. S. European command intelligence officer who draws on the sources of the army, navy, air force, central intelligence agency and embassy military attaches.

HAS TWO HATS

Norstad wears two hats. He is Allied supreme commander and commander of the U. S. forces. If the supreme commander were a non-American, he would have tt rely on his own nation's ntelligence.

c Under the NATO command structure, over - all authority is invested in the 15-nation political council which has an elaborate headquarters in Paris. All decisions by the council must be unanimous.

Once the council makes a decision, orders are passed through a secretariat to the military committee, which has permanent headquarters in Washington, 3,000 miles away.

This committee has a sort of executive subcommittee which then passes the orders along to Supreme H e a dquarters, Allf Forces, Euope (SHAPE) which is located just outside Paris, about 20 miles from where the original decision was made.

CAN'T ORDER THINGS

Implementation of the council's decisions by SHAPE involves a plea for co - operation. SHAPE cannot just go out and order things done.

In theory, NATO is founded upon the principle that an attack upon one is an attack upon all. Still, each nation retains the right to say whether an attack upon one really is an attack upon all.

For example, there is no guarantee that an attack by the East Germans upon the West Germans would be considered an attack upon NATO. Some might consider it just a nasty family affair.

Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, once Britain's leading epresentative to NATO, has characterized the NATO command structure as 'cumbersome and grossly over-staffed."

The field marshal has said that if the West went to war under the present command structure we would have some pretty good disasters."

SUGGESTS CHANGE

He has suggested the central European powers be made responsible for defence of the area entirely and that the command structure be composed of the French, British and Americans.

Montgomery also suggested that only token British and American forces be left in Europe to indicate a determination to help defend against Soviet attack

In addition, Montgomery noted that there were more than 100 Inato subcommittees with a tendency to long debate before reaching decisions.

For a time it appeared that Montgomery's criticisms might force NATO into some sort of reorganization. So far nothing has happened. NATO has made no public rebuttal to Montgomery's assertions.

MAIN OFFENDER

There is scant doubt, by the way, that the bulk of Europe's present defences are provided by the United States. If Montgomery's suggestion that central Europe be defended by central Europeans were adopted, France would have to return a large number of the 650,000 troops she now has in Algeria to the homeland and Germany would have to embark on a swift buildup to 12 divisions—five more than she now has.

The United States currently has 330,000 soldiers in western Europe, 150, of whom are classified as combat troops. The rest are involved in staff work, logistics and communications.

The U.S. air force has some 116,00 men in Europe along with around 1,100 aircraft, according to an educated guess. Actual aircraft figures are classified.

Weather Stops Snipe Racing

SYDNEY (CP)—Only one leg of the Maritime snipe racing championships was held here Tuesday. Weather cancelled two rounds.

Don and Dave Scarfe of Halifax's Armdale club gained first place points in the opener of the Maritime, with Ina Sullivan, also of Halifax, in second place.

Winner of the Nova Scotia snipe championships earlier in the day, Harry Henderson from nearby gwestmount, f i n i s h e d in third place.

Howard Richard of Oakville, Ont., was well back in the pack of 26 craft, with a ninth. I eighth was Tom Storey of Shediac, N.B., and tenth was P.D. Bowring of the Bowring Sailing Club of St. John's, Nfld.

WORSHIPPED SUN

The sun-god was worshipped in Persia as Mithra, in Egypt as Ra, and in Greece as Apollo.

BRISTOL

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roach, arrived here on Sunday from Halifax, N.S., to visit Mr. Roach's brother, Joe, and other realtives and friends around his old home. They will spend most of their vacation in Charlottetown, with Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Burns and Mr. Roach's sister Alice, Mrs. Ed Burns. It is fifty years since Bill Roach left Bristol, and the younger class do not remember him, but we older folk remember Bill and his violin, and his tap dancing at practically every party in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Muttart, along with their son and his wife children, were Sunday visitors in this vicinity, this being Mrs. Muttart's old home. She was the former Laura McVarish, and left here many years ago. Her old home is vacant at present. Mr. and Mrs. Muttart made a success of farming in Albany, and today are both hale and hearty, with no thought of retiring.

Mr. Fred O'Brien, Somerville, Mass., is considerably improvec in health, after two years of illness although still confined to a nursing home. Mr. O'Brien is able to go home some of the week-ends now, and hopes soon to get home to stay. His wife, the former Mary Ellen Dempsy of Peake's Station, is not enjoying good health. This fine couple's sixtieth wedding anniversary is not too far off.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sharpe were business visitors to the city last week. They are having their new home finished, and will move from the village to Bristol, to reside.

Miss Lottie Hughes is expected from Boston this week to spend a few weeks at her summer home in Bristol. Her summer residence is the old home of the late George Hume who left Bristol years ago, and passed away in the U.S.A. where his wife and two daughters reside.

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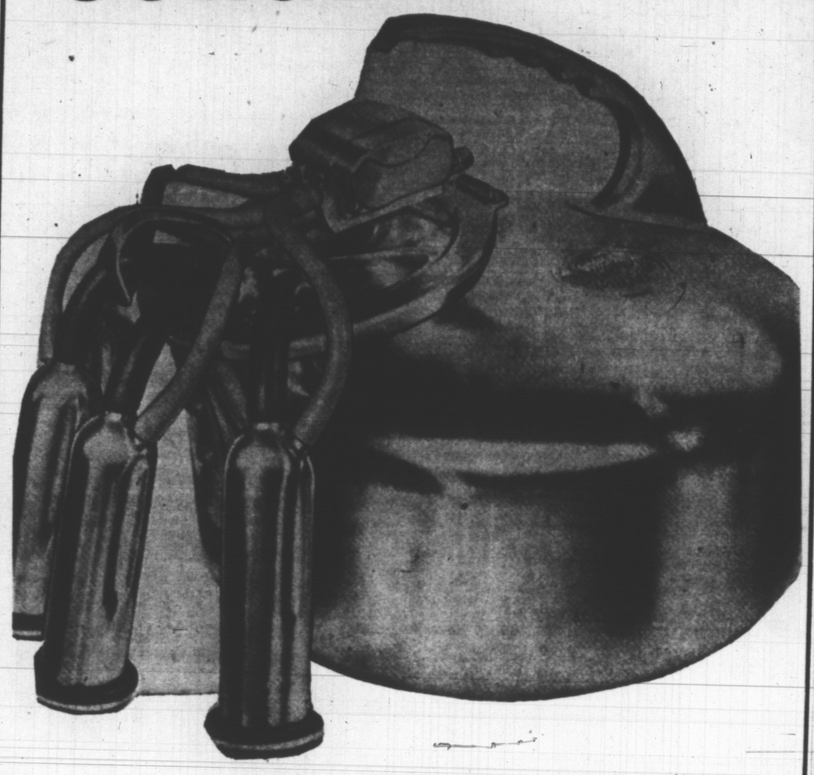

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