

EMPIRE FLIERS TO ARRIVE SOON, CROIL STATES

**Air Vice-Marshal Sees
Training Plan Bulwark
Against Aggression**

EXAMPLE OF UNITY

Ottawa, Dec. 31 (CP).—The Empire air training plan is "destined to be an important bulwark against aggression and for the protection of democratic principles," Air Vice-Marshal G. M. Croil, chief of the air staff, said tonight in a New Year's message to the Royal Canadian Air Force.

He indicated that airmen from the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand will start arriving in Canada shortly to receive their advanced training under the scheme.

"I know that all ranks of the R.C.A.F. engaged in the training plan realize the far-reaching importance of the task Canada has assumed," he said. "I feel confident, therefore, they will continue their effort in furthering the project."

Tribute to R.C.A.F.

Air Vice-Marshal Croil stated that the satisfaction with which the announcement of the plan was received by the Allied powers must in a large measure be the reward for the R.C.A.F. efforts.

"That agreement was reached in so short a time is a tribute to the character of the R.C.A.F. No unit can claim finer esprit de corps, and the wide experience secured by a relatively small personnel during the days of peace is now being utilized to the fullest extent.

"We are fortunate in being able to place some of this experience at the disposal of welcome visitors due shortly from across the Atlantic and Pacific. I would urge all ranks in the R.C.A.F. to take a lively interest in the welfare of these young men coming to Canada for training as pilots, air observers and air gunners.

"I feel sure their relations with our people will be as pleasant as those prevailing between representatives of the British commonwealth of nations gathered here in Ottawa to consider the great project in which these lads will now participate."

Example of Unity.

He said that the recent conversations set one more example of unity between free and independent peoples and that it was his desire the same spirit of unity should prevail within the R.C.A.F. and that its relations with the youth of other Empire countries should provide a foundation for even greater unity in the years to come.

"Officers and airmen, serving in all sections of this vast Dominion, are to be highly commended for their enthusiasm, their initiative and their loyalty to the service during the year now drawing to a close.

"Especially is this applicable to those whose day and night are patrolling our Atlantic and Pacific seaboards, protecting our vulnerable harbor areas and our trade routes.

"To those now training with No. 10 Army Co-operation Squadron for service overseas, the first air force unit to be so honored by selection, I would send words of encouragement. It is unnecessary for me to say that the highest tradition of Canada's fighting airmen will be upheld by the personnel of these and succeeding squadrons."

024052-012

#149
1957
Empire
British Empire
training
Croil