

Major NATO Problem

LONDON (CP) — A senior British officer estimates that North Atlantic allies make about 100,000 flights over French air space a year and says denial of such air space would present NATO with "very considerable problems in war and in peace."

France has withdrawn from NATO's integrated military command and has ordered Canada and the United States to close their French bases and move elsewhere. On March 31 the flags will be lowered at NATO military headquarters at Casteau, near Brussels.

The most serious implication of the French withdrawal from NATO command lies in the political and financial fields, says Brig. Kenneth Hunt, until recently a senior British adviser on the NATO council. Since Western defence rests on forward action along the German frontier, the loss of French land as a field for NATO army manoeuvres constitutes no great hardship.

AIR BRIDGE NEEDED
"But France is of real value as a land and air bridge between the central and southern fronts and if transit or overlying and landing rights are denied, the loss would be a serious one," Hunt says in an analysis published by the British Institute for Strategic Studies. The institute is an independent organization headed by Alastair Buchan, third son of the late Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada from 1935 to 1940.

"Though no such denial is mentioned in any of the decisions announced by France, regulations controlling both national and NATO oversight have since been more closely enforced and so the possibility must be considered."

The two divisions France had assigned to NATO had not been the best equipped and since eye with heracles on how West-France had never seen eyes to era defence should be conducted, there was always doubt whether these divisions would really be available in a pinch.

But French air forces are a different matter. The loss of these 450 aircraft and 23,000 men to NATO is more serious, Brig. Hunt says. By common consent, the training and equipment of this assigned force compared favorably with those of other NATO air forces.

COULD SPLIT FRONT
As for French air space, this has been used by the other NATO allies "to the tune of about 100,000 flights a year and some countries make much use of it for national flights."

The denial of French land and air space could—along with Austrian and Swiss neutrality—split the NATO front into two, Brig. Hunt says.

"Indeed, it has been argued that it might warrant the setting up of two separate commands. It would make it impossible to move reinforcements or supplies from the centre to the southern flank or to the centre itself, except by far less suitable routes through the congested areas of the Benelux countries and of the Federal Republic (Germany)."

Brig. Hunt suggests that perhaps some of the allies could work out a bilateral deal with France, to exchange use of air space, particularly since operation and refuelling of the French nuclear force de frappe might require non-French space.

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WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT VAN HAMP'S BEANS	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT QUINCY PIE FILLING	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT SURAT	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT AJAX	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT SNAP-OFF BAGS	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT TEA BAGS	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT WOLASSES	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT PEACHES	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT SCALDING MILK	WITH CORN & POTATOES IN ONE 7 FL. OZ. BOTTLE. TASTY TREAT BANANAS
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