

development of this aircraft and its engine, with its consequent effects upon the industry, would not be prudent with the international outlook so uncertain. The Government has decided that the development programme for the Arrow aircraft and Iroquois engine should be continued until next March, when the situation will be reviewed again.

Although both the Arrow aircraft and the Iroquois engine appear to be better than any alternatives expected by 1961, it is questionable whether their margin of superiority is worth the very high cost of producing them because of the small numbers likely to be required.

Consequently, the Government had decided that it would be unwise to proceed with the development of a special flight and fire control system for the CF-105 aircraft known as the ASTRA and of a special air-to-air missile to be used as its armament known as the SPARROW. The contracts for the development of the ASTRA fire control system and of the SPARROW missile are now being terminated. In the meantime, modifications of the CF-105 will be made during its development to permit the use of a fire control system and weapon already in production for use in U.S. aircraft. The important savings achieved by cancelling the ASTRA and SPARROW programmes and substituting these alternatives now in production would amount to roughly \$330 million for a completed programme of 100 aircraft.

The total cost to the Canadian Government of developing the Arrow aircraft up to the beginning of September has been \$303 million. To finish this development of the CF-105 and its components, including ASTRA and SPARROW, and to produce enough to have about 100 aircraft for squadron use would cost about another billion and a quarter dollars, approximately 12.5 million per aircraft. By substituting the alternative fire control system and missile for the ASTRA and SPARROW the cost could be reduced to about \$9 million each.

Commenting on these announcements, Mr. Diefenbaker said that the Government has been compelled to make difficult decisions on the basis of the best judgment as to probabilities in matters of uncertainty and importance. Ensuring peace by the maintenance of an effective deterrent against aggression must clearly have priority over other considerations including cost but in working out a defence programme consideration must be given to the best means of achieving the essential objective.

While Canada's role in the coming age of missiles is entirely a defensive one, it will clearly involve this country in considerable disruption from time to time in production as well as in changes of the role of the defence forces. The Government regrets the difficulties of such changes but finds them inescapable if we are to keep pace with the rapid evolution in weapons.

It now seems evident that in the larger weapon systems now required for air forces, Canadian work in the design, development and production of defence equipment will have to be closely integrated with the major programmes of the United States. The United States Government recognizes this and they are now prepared to work out production sharing arrangements with us.

"Canadians are proud of what the Canadian aircraft industry has accomplished for defence", Mr. Diefenbaker stated. "The Arrow supersonic plane has already thrilled us with its performance, its promise and its proof of ability in design and technology. The Iroquois engine too is a fine technical achievement and its development has led to many industrial advances. Excellent scientific and technical teams had been created for these projects. However, it will be recognized, I believe, that as the age of missiles appears certain to lead to a major reduction in the need for fighter aircraft, Canada cannot expect to support a large industry developing and producing aircraft solely for diminishing Canadian defence requirements."

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PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER ROOM

Prime Minister Diefenbaker said in a speech September 19 that he would like to see the establishment of a Prayer room in the Parliament Buildings similar to the one created by the United States Congress in April 1955. Mr. Diefenbaker was addressing the General Council of the United Church at its biennial meeting in Ottawa's Chalmers United Church.

Mr. Diefenbaker stated that there is a special need today for a renewed sense of a national spiritual dedication, and a realization that -

'except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it'.

The Prime Minister told delegates that the Prayer room in Washington is a small room-seventeen feet by eighteen feet. He said, "Its emphasis is on simplicity. It is undenominational and was brought into being following consideration by Protestant, Catholic and Jewish representatives. Its overall concept is 'This Nation under God' resting for its greatness on the open massive Bible; It signifies the need of Divine Guidance and blessing".

Referring to the world scene, Mr. Diefenbaker said, "World problems are almost overwhelming. The free world has tried many expedients. It must now try God's will to a greater extent than ever before. The striking words that were placed by the architect in the Rockefeller Plaza in New York summarize man's need in this age as in all ages,

'Man's ultimate destiny depends not upon whether he can learn new lessons or make new discoveries and conquests, but on his acceptance of the lessons taught him 2,000 years ago'.