

"The full potential of these defensive weapons is achieved only when they are armed with nuclear warheads. The Government is, therefore, examining with the United States Government questions connected with the acquisition of nuclear warheads for "Bomarc" and other defensive weapons for use by the Canadian forces in Canada, and the storage of warheads in Canada. Problems connected with the arming of the Canadian Brigade in Europe with short-range nuclear weapons for NATO's defence tasks are also being studied."

It set this out in great detail. There is no concealment. There is complete revelation of what we are doing. I could read from Hansard year by year. As found at page 1223 of Hansard for 1959, I said this:

"It is our intention to provide Canadian forces with modern and efficient weapons to enable them to fulfil their respective roles. ... It is the policy of the Canadian Government not to undertake the production of nuclear weapons in Canada. ... We must reluctantly admit the need in present circumstances for nuclear weapons of a defensive character."

Then again, ... on a number of occasions I stated that there was no expectation of an early conclusion of a formal agreement. On January 18, 1960, as found at page 73 of Hansard, I said this:

"Eventually Canadian forces may require certain nuclear weapons if Canadian forces are to be kept effective."

Then again:

"Negotiations are proceeding with the United States in order that the necessary weapons can be made available for Canadian defence units if and when they are required."

That was always of the essence throughout in the stand that we took; I cannot comment in detail on these negotiations but I wish to state that arrangements for the safeguarding and security of all such weapons in Canada will be subject to Canadian approval and consent. Then again on February 9, 1960:

"If and when Canada does acquire nuclear weapons, it will be in accordance with our own national policies and with our obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty."

Again on July 4, 1960, I said a similar thing. As found at Page 5653 of Hansard, I said this:

"In so far as general policy is concerned, we are always in this position. On the one hand, we are desirous of attending disarmament; on the other hand, we have to discharge our responsibility of ensuring to the maximum degree the security of the Canadian people. So far as that is concerned..."

And so on. Again, in July, I mentioned the matter, and again in August:

"...We are, therefore, going ahead with the procurement of vehicles which can use these nuclear weapons, but the decision as to the acquisition of the nuclear warheads depends on circumstances which might develop some time in the future."