

I should like to say a word here about the expertise of our airmen who are serving with the Air Division in Europe. This professionalism has been evident from the very first days of our Air Division in Europe; first flying Sabre jets and then the CF-100s our fliers consistently won the Guynmeyer Trophy, which is emblematic of air-combat supremacy.

This excellent airmanship is still evident today when each year the Allied Forces Central Europe gather together to compete in an air-tactical weapons meet. The Canadian component at a recent meet in France won, virtually single-handed, the biggest weapons meet of the year.

When the final results were tabulated, our Canadian airmen had won several impressive victories, including the top national team of the meet and the top strike pilot. Out of the seven top-scoring pilots, RCAF fliers placed first, second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh and, to top this off, the Canadian team set a new record by flying an ideal day of four perfect missions.

Air Defence Command

Canada continues to contribute to continental air defence in accordance with its partnership with the United States in NORAD. Our main contribution continues to be three interceptor squadrons, two Bomarc squadrons and the operation of extensive ground environment radars and communication facilities. As indicated in the White Paper in March 1964, a number of questions depend upon a decision by the United States as to whether it will or will not deploy an anti-missile missile system. This decision has not yet been taken by the United States, although considerable funds are being spent on continued development.

The capability of the ground environment for air defence against the manned bomber is being enhanced, despite the fact that a decreasing amount of our resources are going into this area. This is being done by the introduction of a back-up system which will provide the continuous air surveillance and control of air-defence weapons. This system, called BUIC (Back-Up Interceptor Control), will be introduced into SAGE, the computerized semi-automatic ground environment system of the North American Air Defence Command.

Like SAGE, the BUIC system can receive, store, retrieve, calculate and supply, in thousandths of a second, information vital for the effective control of defensive weapons. When a SAGE centre stops functioning for any reason, a BUIC centre will assume its function.

The cost of the two BUIC sites to be located in Canada will be shared by Canada and the United States. The estimated costs for Canada are \$600,000 for the initial capital outlay and \$250,000 annually for maintenance.

Installation of the BUIC systems, including the Canadian sites, is expected to be completed by early 1969.