

disposing of forces in NATO. I just do not see how one does all these things.

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Mr. Anderson: I have a final question. We have been told that the equipment we have in NATO is not usable in North America, it is of a type and nature which is designed for European use only. Do you then feel that we would be involved in a fairly extensive re-equipment program if we decided to bring these troops back and if we decided to bring the air division back?

Mr. Golden: All roles require re-equipment in what, to the people who have to put up the money, seems a lamentably short period of time. When I talk about disengagement in Europe, I am assuming that this would be done in close concert with our allies. It might take four or five years, by which time that equipment would have to be replaced whether you left Europe or not. I do not think these decisions solve the very difficult problems of having to replace equipment. What you then have to concern yourself with is the kinds of equipment. I do not think replacement is a matter that really solves any of these things; all equipment has to be replaced sooner or later.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Golden, like other members of this Committee, I was very gratified when I read your written submission and I compliment you on it. Mr. Anderson has opened an area in which I was interested. With respect to the emphasis you have placed on Canada's defence role in North America, it seems to me that you are placing a little too much emphasis on it. I admit it is our prior interest but at the present time, having regard to the world situation and the circumstances around us, if we are not getting a free ride at least we are—I would submit to you and ask you to agree with me—getting a cheap ride in North America. Would you agree with this?

Mr. Golden: Oh yes.

Mr. Ryan: At the present time?

Mr. Golden: Indeed this is so, and in the very nature of things it is inevitable.

Mr. Ryan: Yes. We do not need 600,000 men under arms as Taiwan does, for instance. We have an army, navy and air force of somewhere around 100,000. We do not need large

conventional forces on land or in the air in Canada. Is this not so?

Mr. Golden: Yes, but "large" could be taken to mean many things. However, if I understand the intent of your statement, I agree with that.

Mr. Ryan: In fact, there is only a certain amount of attention that we need pay to our internal security. We have a friendly neighbour to the south. There is very little chance now or in the foreseeable future of lodgements by conventional forces. In fact, our main fear is a nuclear attack, is it not?

Mr. Golden: As I understand it, yes.

Mr. Ryan: Yes. So with this in mind should we not direct our attention to try to prevent a nuclear war mainly between the U.S.A. and Russia? Is this not our main concern as we live in Canada today?

Mr. Golden: Yes, I believe so.

Mr. Ryan: With this in mind, should we not then turn most of our attention to and put most of our money behind the proposition that we want peace, we want stability, and particularly in the area where war would be most likely to break out, which I suggest to you is along the NATO wall in Europe. I am talking about nuclear war.

Mr. Golden: I hope you do not misunderstand me when I say I really prefer not to go along with that last part. I am not saying it is not correct, but...

Mr. Ryan: I do not mind if you qualify it or disagree.

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Mr. Golden: I do not mind disagreeing either if I know what I am disagreeing about, but I cannot think of anything that I want to substitute for what you said, except that I am not sure but that in my own mind I think of that war as more likely to occur over the Berlin Wall. I suppose the archives may not be opened, if ever, for another 50 or 100 years, but was not the closest we came to a nuclear confrontation that which took place between the two great powers over Cuba, which is a very long way from the Berlin Wall.

Mr. Ryan: Of course, I might disagree with you a bit on that one. I do not think it was as big a confrontation as has been made out. I