

Supply—National Defence

division will cost several hundreds of millions of dollars, you will see that there is not very much need to fear we are adopting a fortress America complex as opposed to supporting our NATO allies.

As I mentioned, the 23.8 per cent which is included for the defence of Canada and the United States regions, includes all the costs connected with the army field forces here in Canada. They consist of three brigade groups, as shown in the white paper; one stationed in eastern Canada, one in central Canada and one in western Canada. These troops are available for any purpose for which they may be required. They are trained to replace and rotate with the brigade group which is now in Europe. They are field forces and are trained as such. If there were a need for them to be sent on any mission to support the United Nations, they are available for that or any other purpose which may be required in connection with defence.

In so far as making these forces airborne is concerned, at present that is beyond the capabilities of our resources. We are strengthening our air transport command, as has been indicated clearly in the white paper. We are going ahead with 12 aircraft of the CC-106 type, some of which will be completed this year. There is a provision made in these estimates for an expenditure of \$48 million, as shown in the white paper. There is also, as explained in the white paper, provision for \$13 million for the medium transport, the 109, of which 10 are being built this year. In addition to that, although its major role will be that of search and rescue, the new Albatross aircraft also has considerable troop carrying capacity. We should be able to move one battalion, with its equipment, in the very near future.

When it comes to a question of moving a brigade group of approximately 5,000 or more men, with all their equipment, that would run into perhaps 200 aeroplanes and we have not got them at the present time. However, there is no indication that the United Nations are anxious to go ahead and establish a United Nations police force. As hon. members will recall, the Prime Minister himself several years ago, when he was on the other side of this chamber, advocated the formation of a United Nations police force. He has repeated that statement several times since. We are prepared to go ahead and make our contribution to a United Nations police force if and when the United Nations requests us to do so.

There has been a good deal of talk about the Bomarc. The United States is going ahead with Bomarc installations. As I have said, there will be a general interlocking of Bomarc

stations along the Canadian-United States border. There has been talk about the discussions that have been going on in the United States before some of their senate and congressional committees regarding the relative values of the Bomarc and the Nike-Ajax and Nike-Hercules. I do not wish to comment on these discussions. The situation in the United States is different from that which exists here. We do not have the same policies of development carried out by one service or another. Our development policy follows different lines, and so we escape a certain degree of interservice rivalry which exists.

Never at any time did the administration in the United States consider the replacement of the Nike-Hercules or Nike-Ajax with the Bomarc or vice versa. Each system is complementary to the other. As I described this morning, the Bomarc is for area defence, sometimes referred to as perimeter defence, whereas the Nike-Hercules is a defence for a point.

Questions were asked about NATO forces. Are our NATO forces balanced forces? This is the aim and idea of SHAPE, to try to have the forces which are in the air or on the ground in Europe as balanced NATO forces. This is one reason why General Norstad recommended to the Canadian government a change in the role of the Canadian air division, because the national air forces are beginning to play their part in Europe, thus relieving the Canadians of that particular air defence role. He suggested that it might soon be time to re-equip some of the squadrons—those which are now armed—with the F-86 and he would like to see Canada providing a strike-reconnaissance element.

Mr. Benidickson: On that point, Mr. Chairman, may I ask this question. Would the minister say that General Norstad first made his recommendation on his visit to Canada recently?

Mr. Parkes: No. Those things were discussed in December but no firm decision was reached at that time.

The Leader of the Opposition asked for some comment with regard to the state of the provision of the forces by the different nations and whether they came up to their requirements. He knows perfectly well that the national requirements were set out in the secret paper which is referred to as MC-70. Canada is living up to her agreed commitments. One of the requirements of that paper was that in due course the Canadian air division should be re-armed. We are living up to that commitment. As I announced today, the decision has now been taken.

[Mr. Parkes.]