

General Assembly agenda¹¹ alleging aggressive acts by Turkey, as well as by other Western nations, to bring about changes in Syria by force, and proposing the establishment of a fact finding committee. At first, the U.S. Secretary of State had been opposed to such an investigation, then he had changed his mind. The U.K. Foreign Secretary claimed that the terms of reference of the committee were not wide enough and that the concentration of Russian troops in Bulgaria and along the northern border of Turkey should come within the investigation's ambit. Eventually, the Syrian resolution had been inscribed. Questions had also arisen as to whether the committee should be established under the auspices of the General Assembly or the Security Council, and as to its membership. At the moment it would appear that India, Sweden, and Japan would be selected.

The West had underestimated the strength of Arab nationalism. The cement holding the Arabs together was the existence of Israel. The U.S. had hoped to gain some support for its Middle East policy from Saudi Arabia and Iraq but they were just as strongly against direct or indirect interventions in the Middle East, by any country associated with the free world, as were other Arab nations.

2. *Mr. Diefenbaker* said he had also spoken to the President about the decision to integrate the operational control of Canadian and continental U.S. air defence forces in peacetime,¹² and had informed him of the criticism in Canada of the government's agreement to this plan. Mr. Eisenhower had been sympathetic. He had said that, depending on consultation with his advisers, he would be prepared to let it be known that whoever was in command at Air Defence Command in Colorado Springs when the first evidence of war occurred should communicate with the President and the Prime Minister, or their duly constituted representatives, before ordering action. The Minister of National Defence should get in touch with the U.S. authorities as to the kind of announcement that would be made in this connection¹³. Not much more than this could be done, but it would confirm the authority of the civil power over the military.

On disposals of agricultural surpluses, the President said he was most anxious to remove causes of division between Canada and the U.S. Now, Mr. Eisenhower said the U.S. at least knew quite clearly what Canadians did not want and this would be a useful guide to him and his government in formulating their policies.

3. *Mr. Diefenbaker* said there was no limit to Mr. Eisenhower's congeniality and friendliness. Their talks had been helpful and he hoped that from these and earlier representations Canada's position was more clearly understood and that our interests would be better protected.

4. *The Cabinet* noted with approval the report of the Prime Minister on his discussions in Washington with the President and other U.S. officials, and agreed that the Minister of National Defence communicate with the U.S. authorities as to a joint announcement to be made respecting civilian control over the initiation of operations under the integrated Canadian and U.S. air defence commands.

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¹¹ Voir chapitre II, 4^e partie./See Chapter II, Part 4.

¹² Voir la 4^e partie, section A de ce chapitre./See Part 4, Section A of this chapter.

¹³ Voir/See Document 24.