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CONTENTS

Air Defence Revised	1
Parliamentary Prayer Room	2
Gross National Product	3
Home Economics Education	4
Ontario Industries	4
Pulp And Paper Industry	5

Assistance For West Indies	5
Ambassador Appointments	6
Marked Rise In Wages	6
Canadian Delegation To UN	6
UN Observer Group	6

AIR DEFENCE REVISED

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker announced September 23 that the Government has concluded that missiles should be introduced into the Canadian Air Defence System and that the number of supersonic interceptor aircraft required for the R.C.A.F. Air Defence Command will be substantially less than could have been foreseen a few years ago. The Canadian supersonic interceptor aircraft, the CF-105 or the "Arrow" will not be available for effective use in squadrons until late in 1961. The preponderance of expert opinion is that by the 1960's manned aircraft, however outstanding, will be less effective in meeting the threat than previously expected.

It has been decided to introduce the BOMARC guided missile into the Canadian Air Defence System. This is a long range, anti-aircraft missile guided from the ground with the aid of the same radar system as that used in guiding interceptor aircraft. It can be used with either a conventional high explosive warhead or a nuclear warhead. Two Canadian bases for firing such missiles will be established in Northern Ontario and Quebec. The use of this missile will be in accord with the approved policy of NORAD for the air defence of the North American Continent. Other BOMARC bases may be located in Canada in the later development of the programme. Most of the industrial areas in Canada will be within the defensive range of the two projected BOMARC bases or others under NORAD

control and located in the Northern United States.

Negotiations are under way with the United States to work out arrangements for obtaining these BOMARC missiles and the necessary equipment for maintaining, testing and launching them. Discussions will also be held on the best way for Canadian industry to share in the production of the missiles.

The Government has also approved the extension and strengthening of the Pinetree Radar Control System. Several additional large radar stations will be constructed and these and the existing stations will be supplemented by small intervening stations.

The Government has decided to install the "SAGE" electronic control and computing equipment in the Canadian Air Defence System to deal more effectively with the increased numbers of aircraft and the BOMARC guided missiles. This will be integrated as a part of the North American SAGE system under NORAD. Discussions are being initiated with the U.S. authorities to determine the number of large electronic computers needed and to arrange for the participation of Canadian industry in the expansion programme.

Because of the introduction of missiles into the Canadian Air Defence System, the Government has decided that it would not be advisable at this time to put the CF-105 into production. The Government believes, however, that to discontinue abruptly the