

On March 10, 1970, the then minister of defence, Leo Cadieux, issued a statement to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence detailing Canada's participation in chemical and biological warfare testing. The document stressed that Canada's only involvement was from a defensive point of view, to test defensive measures to be used in case of attack. There are, however, two very interesting points that should be drawn from that 1970 document.

In describing Canada's role in any testing, the report indicated:

—it is therefore entirely Canada's decision whether certain experiments will take place on Canadian soil.

The report also went on to indicate categorically:

—It should perhaps be stated in this connection that no research carried out by the Department of National Defence has affected the use of chemicals in Vietnam.

Obviously these 1970 statements do not jibe with what we have discovered happened at Gagetown.

Now the minister and his officials have gone out of their way to puff up a story about the 1966 tests being related only to brush control experiments at CFB Gagetown. The Department of National Defence and the minister himself have insisted that there was no suggestion on the part of Canadian defence officials or the U.S. Army that the tests were for the development of chemical warfare agents, specifically defoliants for use in Vietnam.

It seems that these gentlemen cannot read if they insist or deny that Canadians, or Americans for that matter, had intentions of putting the results of the Gagetown tests to use in Vietnam.

Technical Memorandum 141, Defoliation Tests in 1966 at Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, a U.S. Army document, indicated:

—large areas similar in density to areas of interest in Southeast Asia were needed—

The memorandum went on:

—this land located at CFB Gagetown, Oromocto, New Brunswick, was suitable in size and density and contained a mixture of conifer and deciduous broadleaf species in a dense undisturbed forest cover that would provide similar vegetation densities to those of temperate and tropical areas such as Southeast Asia.

It is clear that the Americans were using Gagetown because conditions were similar to those of their interest in Southeast Asia, that is, Vietnam.

The Canadian version of the report on the 1966 Gagetown test entitled "Vegetation Control" shows beyond a doubt that Canadians were well aware of the reasons for U.S. interest in testing in Gagetown. I quote from that report:

—U.S. interest is understandable. A great amount of effort has been expended to find some means of destroying the jungle canopy of Southeast Asia.

In 1966 Canadian officials knew that the Gagetown tests were a result of U.S. Army desires to destroy the jungle canopy in Vietnam. In 1981 Canadian officials do not seem to be able to make that connection.

Two other reports confirm that these tests were to aid the U.S. effort in Vietnam. A Pentagon official recently confirmed

that the Gagetown tests were indeed Vietnam-related. Second, a book entitled "The Science of 2, 4, 5, T" by Rodney Bovy and Alan Young stated that the U.S. military:

—did not disperse experimental or untested herbicides. Field tests for military purposes were applied in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Thailand, Canada and other areas.

The ominous part of that last quote is that it leaves open to speculation the possibility that other tests could have been carried out in Canada. Agent Orange and related chemicals are not harmless, as the minister suggested.

My questions on this issue have yet to be answered by this government. I want to know when the government will stop this ridiculous charade of innocence concerning the government's participation in Vietnam-related tests and admit that it was a willing co-conspirator. When will the government explain why it has involved itself in such testing of offensive chemical weapons? Finally, when will this government come clean with the Canadian public and detail the nature and extent of all chemical and biological warfare testing in Canada?

● (2225)

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I remind hon. members that in 1966 the Americans were doing extremely well in Vietnam. Indeed, I believe they controlled three quarters of the land. Therefore, it was not necessary for them to do any experiments in Canada. They had all the land they wanted in Vietnam. It is a fact that for its own reasons the Department of National Defence co-operated in the testing by the U.S. army of chemical defoliants at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in 1966.

It is also a fact that all of the materials used were commercially available and registered with the Department of Agriculture for commercial use on forest, pasture and range land. These chemicals had been in use for quite some time before the Gagetown tests and have been used more extensively since then for hydro and highway bush clearing operations, as well as by commercial users.

It is also a fact that the Gagetown tests were carried out entirely on isolated Crown property, miles from the closest inhabited areas. The fact that the spraying was done from a low-flying helicopter in calm weather conditions makes it virtually impossible that the chemicals would have been spread outside the test area.

Let it be said that we are not talking here of a massive area or of entire forests but rather of clearly marked plots totalling less than 400 acres well inside the boundary of the camp, which itself contains over 250,000 acres. Furthermore, the 2-4-D, 2-4-5 T mixture was tested on considerably less than the 400 acres.

Bush control at CFB Gagetown has always been a problem of considerable magnitude. Evidence of the problem is not only contained in departmental documents but also in publications such as *Hansard*, page 7281, of August 26, 1964, and the