



DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

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Monday, June 20, 1955.

House of Commons Defence Debate: Ottawa, June 17 (CP) -- The Government feels the likelihood of wartime enemy landings in Canada has decreased with the growth in power of nuclear weapons, Defence Minister Campney said today.

He said in the House of Commons that the army's three airborne battalions in Canada are regarded as adequate to meet that kind of attack if it should come.

Mr. Campney, speaking in the second day of the defence debate, also rejected as too costly a Progressive Conservative proposal that the entire army be made airborne and reorganized into small, mobile units.

And -- under questioning by Mr. Drew -- he revised his statement last night that Canada's 1st Division is "a division under NATO primarily for the defence of Europe."

Mr. Drew said the Minister seemed to be voicing a new policy. Previously, the Government had said Canada's commitment to NATO land forces was a single brigade. If the 1st Division's three brigades were committed to NATO "then we have assumed obligations of which no member of the House was aware."

Mr. Campney replied that the Army NATO commitment is only one brigade.

The full division had been formed in 1953 in accordance with NATO commitments with two of the three brigades remaining in Canada to provide trained units to replace the third brigade in West Germany after its two-year tour of duty. Thus the division had to be kept separate.

Mr. Campney said the Conservative proposal for an entirely airborne army sounds inducing. But the Government and its military advisers feel, he said, "that having regard to the long distances we are from our potential enemy and the fact that any men landed here would be far from any bases, the likelihood of physical invasion by persons in any number has probably decreased, whereas the power of the bomb... has increased."

"It is felt," he added, "... that the three battalions which comprise the mobile striking force should be regarded as adequate for that type of warfare should it arise."

To move an entire 20,000-man division by air at one time would take \$350,000,000 worth of transport planes carrying 120 men each. The cost still would be considerable if it were reckoned on the basis of the several return journeys for the move.

Mr. Drew replied that his party's proposals for a reorganized, airborne army are not based in terms of the present systems of divisions.

Five-Man Economic Commission: Ottawa, June 17 (CP) -- Prime Minister St.

Laurent today announced appointment of the five-man commission to study Canada's economic future, naming Walter L. Gordon, Toronto accountant and management consultant, as chairman.

In a brief statement to the House of Commons, Mr. St. Laurent said these others will be members: Albert E. Grauer, Vancouver; Andrew Stewart, Edmonton; Omer Lussier, Quebec City; Raymond Gushue, St. John's, Nfld.

Mr. Douglas Lapan, Canadian minister-counsellor at Washington and one of Canada's best known poets, will be commission secretary and research director.

Mr. St. Laurent said the commission will study population growth, trends in productivity, and living standards and the supply of materials in the future. . . .

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