

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the most I can say on that is that General Sharp obviously implied that it was a matter for political decision and not to be decided only by military considerations. It is of course the intention of the government to take its political responsibilities in such matters. But it may be that the government will not want to discuss this question in front of the house, if it does not feel it has to come up with a decision.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Prime Minister whether parliament will have an opportunity to discuss this matter before the government takes the political decision which is now under review.

Mr. Trudeau: I do not understand the question very well, Mr. Speaker. The matter is before the committee, and General Sharp is testifying before it. Members of the house can express their opinion before that committee, and we hope they will.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the Prime Minister if, in the government's review of the anti-ballistic missile system, he will undertake to see that the comprehensive report commissioned by Senator Edward Kennedy which is now completed is included in the study, and when does the government expect to complete that study?

Mr. Trudeau: We have been pressed by the house to make some announcements as soon as possible on phase 2 of Canada's defence system, and I believe we will give that top priority before deciding on the defence systems of other countries.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Having failed a moment ago to get an assurance from the Prime Minister, I wonder if he would give the house an assurance that he will not make an announcement regarding the NORAD policy the day after the house adjourns.

NORAD—POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF NORTH BAY INSTALLATION

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister in connection with NORAD and the statement made by Lieutenant General Sharp, deputy commander of NORAD. Is the Prime Minister in a position to inform the house on

the correctness of the statement that the government is now considering an extension of the NORAD headquarters at Colorado Springs to a supplementary command post at North Bay?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this sounds like a rather complicated question. I will have to refer it to the minister to see whether we can give the hon. member an uncomplicated answer.

Mr. Winch: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I will take with pleasure the advice of the right hon. Prime Minister and direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. I should like to ask the minister if his department is now considering the extension and expansion of North Bay as a supplementary headquarters to the NORAD headquarters in Colorado Springs as was announced by General Sharp.

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): First of all, the question does not involve an extension of the facilities. As conceived and as operating now the installation at North Bay could be used as an alternative base to Colorado Springs. The only thing that would be new in this particular case would be for the government to accept the proposition and formalize an arrangement with the United States government to use the North Bay base as an alternate base in case Colorado Springs is knocked out.

Mr. Winch: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it now being considered by the government as outlined by the minister?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): No, Mr. Speaker.

A.B.M. SYSTEM—COMMUNICATION WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Prime Minister returned from Washington and reported on the conversation he had with regard to the A.B.M. system I wonder whether he or his colleagues have communicated any position, even of an interim nature, to the government of the United States with respect to the establishment of A.B.M.s.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): When I came back from Washington I reported in general terms that I had expressed some concern over the A.B.M. system and its consequences on the equilibrium of forces of deterrence between the Soviet Union and the