

possible range of response to whatever threat may be directed against its security". As members of the Committee are aware, at the recent meeting of ministers here in Ottawa it was agreed to establish an interallied nuclear force in NATO which was considered to be a measure leading to an increase in the effectiveness of the nuclear capability at the disposal of the alliance....

The acceptance by Canada of the strike role for the air division and the acquisition of the "Honest John" rocket for our brigade group in Europe has committed us to signing a bilateral agreement with the United States of America to permit the immediate availability of nuclear devices. This does not make us a member of the "Nuclear Club". It only fulfills the general undertaking given by us and other member countries at the heads-of-government meeting in December 1957 and the specific undertaking of Canada, in 1959, to accept the strike role. In signing a bilateral agreement, we will be doing what the majority of our NATO allies have already done and we will be implementing the commitment given to the NATO Council in 1959.

A number of questions have been raised about the strike role being truly "tactical" because of the ability of the weapons carrier, the CF104, to penetrate into enemy territory. The designation "tactical" is basically related to the type of target rather than to the weapons carrier used, although in common usage the range of the vehicle often does have a relation to target assignment. The targets which would be assigned to our air force are military targets only. This type of target could involve military bases (including dockyards and airfields), radar installations and military command and control centres, depots and dumps containing fuel or other supplies directly supporting enemy combat forces, key road, rail or waterway facilities used for supporting the combat area, etc. The yield of the bomb assigned would depend on the particular target, but in most of these cases would be relatively low-yield - a very small fraction of figures which have been used in the House and in the press. "Tactical" targets do not include population centres as such. Now, I am not suggesting that all civilian populations would be left untouched by the use of these tactical weapons, but I am saying that all targets assigned to the air division will be of direct and immediate significance to a possible battle in Allied Command Europe.

I know some Honourable Members are concerned about the moral aspects of these assignments. It is a matter of concern to all of us. As a member of NATO, we have agreed to a strategy of nuclear deterrence. As long as we remain a member of the alliance we cannot separate ourselves, morally, from the general policy. We rely on the protection of the Strategic Air Command and approve of its constant flights over our territory. Additionally, we have sold the uranium for most of the free world's arsenal and would, no doubt, sell more for military purposes if our friends were interested in buying it....