

Contribution to NATO early warning system

Canada, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany will finance the acquisition, operation and maintenance of a fleet of Boeing 707 aircraft to be used as a continuous airborne warning system across Western Europe.

Barney Danson, the Minister of National Defence, announced at a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels last month that Canada would participate in the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW) program to the extent of some \$180 million (1977 U.S. dollars). Mr. Danson stated:

Canada, like other members of the alliance, fully recognizes the military requirement for the establishment of an integrated allied air defence and command and control system in Europe. The commitment to this NATO-wide AEW program made by Canada and other members during recent defence planning talks in Brussels is a further indication of our continued efforts to introduce improved collective security measures within the alliance. It also shows our determination to give substance to the expressions of intent made by heads of state and government at the Washington Summit in May of this year.

Canada is one of three countries — along with the Federal Republic of Germany and the U.S.A. — that were asked, in return for industrial collaboration within the program, to accept a major share of the acquisition, and operation and maintenance costs of the AEW system. Canada's share of the estimated acquisition cost of \$1.8 billion (1977 U.S. dollars) will be approximately \$180 million (1977 U.S. dollars), slightly less than 10 per cent of the total cost, phased over the next eight years. Canada will also contribute to the annual personnel, operating and maintenance costs of the system, estimated at \$104 million (1977 U.S. dollars). The annual Canadian share of these support costs will be in the order of \$9.5 million (1977 U.S. dollars), although a portion of this will be in our contribution of Canadian Forces personnel to the headquarters and airborne component of the NATO AEW force.

In this age of sophisticated weapons technology the alliance cannot afford to be without an advanced early-warning protection system which the modified *Boeing 707 E3A* aircraft, working in conjunction with British *Nimrod AEW* aircraft, will provide. The existing NATO ground radar systems have reached the limits of their growth potential to meet increasing Soviet capabilities. Introduc-

tion of the AEW system will be another measure designed to deter the Warsaw Pact launching surprise attacks and will constitute one of the most significant steps forward in NATO deterrence and defence.

Collective security measures in North America and Europe are important elements of Canadian defence policy. The extent of Canadian and U.S. participation in the AEW program underscores the importance that we in North America attach to our membership in the alliance and our stake in helping to ensure it maintains a credible deterrent posture.

NORAD system

In North America, of course, we share air defence responsibilities with our U.S. partner. Together we are now in the process of updating the U.S./Canadian joint surveillance system in North America. In addition to the gradual improvement in our joint ground radar systems and the re-organization of our command and control facilities, U.S. forces will be bringing into operational service early next year an *E3A* airborne warning and control system, similar to that scheduled for NATO Europe. Canada will play its role in the operation and maintenance of the NORAD AEW system which will not only do much to revitalize our ability to defend the North American continent and its people but also, at the same time, contribute to the security of all our NATO allies.

Canada will receive benefits from industrial collaboration of at least \$60 million (1977 U.S. dollars) from production associated with the NATO AEW program. The U.S.A. has also agreed to credit Canada, under the Canada/U.S. defence production sharing program, the remainder of the Canadian capital costs in the NATO AEW program, amounting to an additional \$120 million (1977 U.S. dollars).

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Canada/Sao Tomé and Príncipe establish diplomatic relations

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson recently announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations William H. Barton, and Chargé d'Affaires of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe Helder Barros, signed a joint *communiqué* on December 13. The Canadian ambassador to be accredited to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe will be resident in Yaoundé, Cameroun, where he is also Canada's ambassador.

A look at national security

"All Canadians should be aware of how Government views national security, what Government is doing in this area, why such activity needs to take place at all and, given that, whether the job is being carried out efficiently, effectively, and under proper control," stated Solicitor General Jean-Jacques Blais recently.

In a speech to the Richelieu Club of Ottawa Mr. Blais declared that "national security means no more, but no less, than that: sovereignty is the key element in our nationhood without which Canada — as we know it and want it to be — could not and would not exist".

He argued that the strength of journalism depended upon the confidentiality of the sources of information and suggested, "no less a principle holds true for national security information, be it related to Canadian international relations or to national internal security operations".

Mr. Blais also stated that "while there is an obligation on the state to protect itself and its institutions from forces that would seek to weaken or destroy it, and in so doing, threaten the rights and freedoms of its citizens, it would be illogical and indeed dangerous to put in place organizations and procedures which would impair those same rights and freedoms we wish to protect. In essence, what is uppermost is the principle of civil liberties".

He added that legal and administrative measures needed to protect national security information were under review and would be brought up to date soon.