

operational command.¹⁰

Mr. Frith then inquired about the choice of location of the airfields. D. B. Dewar, the Deputy Minister for National Defence responded:

The locations reflect judgements made about the range of the aircraft, the likely areas where interception for identification would be wanted, given the location of the North Warning System and the capacity of the ground controllers to maintain direction over the aircraft.¹¹

During later SCND hearings NDP member Derek Blackburn pursued the question of possible Canadian involvement in the US Air Defence Initiative (ADI) with officials of the Department of National Defence. When Mr. Healey (ADM (Material)) responded that Canada was not "directly linked" with the ADI programme, Mr. Blackburn then inquired as to whether the US would need Canadian territory for ADI or would be able to proceed without Canadian co-operation. He said:

It seems to me,...that there will come a time very shortly when the Americans will not be able to proceed without us. Is that a fair assumption?... ..do you anticipate that the Americans can proceed with their active depenetration surveillance and interception capabilities in their ADI program without Canadian co-operation....¹²

Mr. Healey responded:

Obviously any consideration of the defence of North America will have to take into account the work both sides are doing in this area. It has obviously been our policy that co-operation is the route to a more secure North American Air Defence....I think it would be our considered

¹⁰ SCND Proceedings, 17 Mar. 1987, p. 32.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 33.

¹² SCND Proceedings, 26 Mar. 1987, p. 8.