

*Abandonment of Defence Projects*

stated that the Bomarc's we were seeking to instal at La Macaza base were obsolete and would serve but one purpose, that is to make good targets for Russian atomic bombs or nuclear weapons in case of an attack against the United States or Canada.

Mr. Speaker, there are three nuclear arms bases in the province of Quebec: Val d'Or, Bagotville and La Macaza.

And those bases are to be used for one thing only, not for defensive purposes, because, as stated by the U.S. defence secretary, those weapons are obsolete, but as targets for the nuclear weapons that might be directed against the United States and Canada. That means that Canadians are to be used as targets for the nuclear attacks which would otherwise be directed against the United States.

Mr. Speaker, if those weapons are efficient, why were they not installed north of the American border itself? Then the American territory would have been protected. But no, they are installed 400 miles farther north, especially to prevent the first enemy nuclear bombs from hitting the United States and to have them fall on the heads of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, we may well ask the Minister of National Defence whether, under such circumstances, the wives and homes of Canadian citizens are not just as important as the wives and homes of Americans.

That is when the Minister of National Defence jumped to his feet—I would practically say like a comedian—to speak of the responsibilities of the present government. I submit that the first responsibility of the government is towards the citizens of Canada and not those of another country. Its foremost concern should be the Canadian people.

In my opinion, the first duty of the present government was to commit Canada to a policy of world disarmament and to encourage all countries to follow a policy of nuclear disarmament because, as we all know, a nuclear war is unthinkable today since it would destroy the whole world.

By refusing to accept nuclear weapons, Canada could have kept on playing that part, but by joining the nuclear club, our country can hardly act as peacemaker or advocate nuclear disarmament.

When I went to the United Nations on September 15 last, the present government had just made known its intention to store nuclear weapons on Canadian soil. This was only a few days after a hundred or so countries of the world had signed the Moscow agreement banning nuclear tests throughout the world.

While the situation was less strained, while countries were effecting nuclear disarmament

[Mr. Gregoire.]

and it was agreed to stop nuclear tests, Canada was the only country in the world willing to store nuclear weapons. As a matter of fact, since then no other country has stored such weapons.

And yet, remember the fight there was last year, around the same date, when the United States objected to the storing of nuclear arms in Cuba because it was a neighbouring country. Well, Canada also is a neighbour of Russia. What if the storing of nuclear arms were to start a nuclear war, which is what almost happened last year?

Mr. Speaker, for all those reasons, we object to the storing of nuclear arms in the province of Quebec. Moreover, we do not think that the role of Canada is a nuclear one, but rather that its role is to work towards peace and disarmament throughout the world. We also feel that a nuclear war is unthinkable and that the presence of nuclear arms on our soil must be avoided as much as possible so that our country may be spared the hardship that might be the lot of many countries.

That is why we are against nuclear stockpiling within the state of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, a great many municipal councils, social clubs and national organizations are opposed to the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Canada or at least by the province of Quebec. I should like to draw to the attention of the Minister of National Defence resolutions which were passed by municipal councils and national organizations in that connection.

I have here a resolution dated July 8 which was adopted by the town of Port Alfred, county of Chicoutimi, and which is signed by both Mayor J. E. A. Beaulieu and town clerk Willie Tremblay. The relevant part of the resolution reads as follows:

That the town of Port Alfred protest to the Minister of National Defence against the stockpiling of nuclear weapons at the R.C.A.F. base at Bagotville, and request that the government reconsider its decision and refuse to accept any kind of nuclear weapon in Canada. And if it is proven that the country needs them, the government must see to it that they are stored in a place where they would offer no hazard for our populations, should an accident occur.

Therefore, the town of Port Alfred should canvass all the towns of the area, from Dolbeau to the Baie des Ha! Ha!, and ask them to second its request to the government.

(Text):

That city, Mr. Speaker, is located three miles away from the military base of Bagotville, where squadrons are stationed and where nuclear arms are stored.

Besides the request from the town of Port Alfred, I have another one from the town of Alma, in the constituency of Lake St. John, which is signed by his worship Mayor J. L.