

role precludes its use in conventional support of NATO ground forces. Since the concept of a limited nuclear war in Western Europe, without escalation, is a dubious one, the strike reconnaissance role of the Air Division, in a nuclear conflict, is of limited operational value. The nuclear strike reconnaissance role remains basically as a deterrent. Another basic weakness of the strike reconnaissance role is its vulnerability to a first strike.

63. France does not permit nuclear warheads, except those under its exclusive control, to be stored on French soil, thus French squadrons, armed with American nuclear warheads, are not permitted to operate from French bases and are stationed in Germany. The four R.C.A.F. squadrons of CF-104's, based in France, will not be permitted to store their American owned nuclear weapons at their French bases and will have to obtain their nuclear warheads outside of France. This situation is not satisfactory.

64. The Committee noted that Canada's Air Division in Europe is not fully equipped as to CF-104 aircraft and has at this time no weapons whatsoever, either conventional or nuclear, for use with its CF-104's.

65. Alternative roles for the Canadian Air Division were discussed. Among which was that of providing air transport for NATO mobile troops for use on the perimeter of the NATO defence area.

66. The Committee visited the Fourth Canadian Infantry Brigade Group at Soest, Germany, and concluded that there were deficiencies in the equipment required to give the brigade desirable mobility. There exists some doubt in the Committee as to the military value of having included in the brigade the four Honest John rocket launchers.

67. As far as the Committee could discern, the morale of the service personnel and their dependents, on the bases visited, was high.

68. Your Committee recommends:

- (a) In view of the military contribution of our armed forces in Europe as well as the psychological effect of their presence, Canadian forces should remain in Europe.
- (b) An immediate review to determine the merits or otherwise of giving the CF-104 a dual capacity.
- (c) Study should be given to the role of the two brigades in Canada, that are presently committed in case of emergency as back-up to the Brigade in Europe and to the transport and mobility of these forces as well as that of Canada's brigade in Europe.
- (d) A long range force role study be immediately initiated to determine a most suitable future role for the Air Division when its present equipment becomes obsolete.
- (e) In view of the need for mobility, special consideration should be given to the allocation of a military Air Transport role for the Air Division.
- (f) That NATO be requested to re-locate the CF-104 squadrons stationed in France.
- (g) That the brigade group be equipped with armoured personnel carriers, and other suitable air and surface high mobility combat vehicles.