

Government Policy on Air Defence

States, then we must be confident in our own minds—all of us who have an obligation in parliament in this matter—that this change is going to increase our defence capacity. The principle which the Prime Minister has enunciated in his statement and which should guide not only Canadian but United States policy in this matter is the principle of the pooling of our resources continentally and on an Atlantic basis for collective defence. Surely that does not mean that Canada is to be asked to take part in collective continental defence in so far as planning and operation are concerned but not in so far as the development of resources and industrial capacity are concerned.

The Prime Minister has mentioned the matter of the availability both in Canada and for our forces who are defending Canada in Europe—and who are defending the peace in doing so—of nuclear warheads for the weapons which may be required. I think he was quite right, Mr. Speaker, in emphasizing, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs has emphasized inside and outside the house, the tragic results that might occur if the manufacture of these nuclear weapons were extended to other countries beyond those which now manufacture them. I do not think anybody in this house wants to see that happen.

I recall, if I may mention it, speaking about this matter last summer and expressing the hope that at the United Nations assembly perhaps some progress might be made by members of that organization taking a self-denying ordinance that they will not be responsible in their own countries for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. It is bad enough to have these weapons of mass destruction in the hands of two or three super powers, but it would be infinitely worse if they were in the hands of 15, 20 or 25 other powers. I therefore agree with the Prime Minister that anything that can be done to limit the extension of manufacture of these weapons should be done. I welcome his statement that these nuclear weapons are not to be manufactured in Canada.

Nevertheless, with regard to the nuclear warheads of Bomarc missiles and defensive weapons of that kind, it seems to me it would be quite insupportable, as long as they are used, to have Canadian air squadrons without them and United States squadrons on the same airfield with them. I say that without qualifying in any way my hope that the day may come when all nuclear weapons may be removed from the armouries of nations. It does not seem to me that the two things at the present time are incompatible.

I think our defence policy—and I mention it on the broadest ground of principle—

should be based on the kind of deterrence which the Prime Minister said is now essential. At this time we may require weapons for defence purposes while also seeking disarmament, a search in which we must not falter no matter how frustrating and disappointing it may seem to be.

That appears to be all that should be said on this side at this time, Mr. Speaker, with regard to this vitally important statement. The Prime Minister has said that the policy of the government is to ensure the security of Canada—and I mentioned this at the beginning of my statement—by all efficient and reasonable means at our disposal and in concert with our strong and trustworthy allies. That is essential in the world in which we live. But there is a better way of ensuring the security of Canada than even by collective defence. That way is by removing the causes of discord and conflict, thereby establishing peace and good will among peoples. That is the only permanent basis for security in this world.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the announcement made by the Prime Minister this morning is most important and far-reaching. It will mean for Canada the end of large expenditures on the CF-105. The fact that we have been able to develop the CF-105 to the present point should convince all Canadians and the world that we have a fund of scientific knowledge and a body of technicians capable of keeping Canada, if not in the vanguard, almost in the vanguard of extremely important scientific developments.

However, important as are accomplishments in this field, I think the announcement that the CF-105 is not to be further proceeded with demonstrates and underlines the need for co-operation with regard to defence matters. I am certainly no expert in this field, but it would seem to me that one of the reasons we are caught in this dilemma today, and that the government has felt it necessary to end this development, is that for some reason or another there has not been the kind of co-operation between Canada and the United States which is necessary to the development of an adequate defence system; and no provision, as has seemed to have been the case, that Canada develop the CF-105 and the United States develop some other type of aircraft. So we have reached the point today of ceasing our own development.

The Prime Minister has said, if I understood him correctly, that at least at this time there are no orders to be assigned immediately to the company producing the CF-105. It seems to me that was making a far-reaching statement without giving much hope to the people