

lines in the North Atlantic?⁷

The Associate Minister of Defence, Paul Dick, responded by describing an incident where Canadian CF-18s intercepted Soviet Bear bombers. Mr. Baker pursued the question again:

...there have been three incidents of interceptions of Soviet Bears in Canadian airspace this year. Two of the three interceptions were made by American interceptor jets. Since these Bear aircraft normally come down from Greenland and Iceland and are intercepted off the Labrador coast, and since the Government announced new [interceptor] bases...why did it not put those jets where the action takes place, in Newfoundland and Labrador....⁸

Mr. Dick replied:

They were placed in Bagotville because it is more central to the entire northern region rather than only Newfoundland. We usually scramble our aircraft from Bagotville to Gander, the take-off point....we happen to have an agreement which we believe is working extremely well. It is called NORAD. We and the United States work together.⁹

During hearings before the Standing Committee on National Defence (SCND) Liberal member Doug Frith asked about how often the US would be using the new northern airfields and under what conditions. Vice Admiral Brodeur responded:

It would largely depend on the threat situation at the time. Whether the interceptors that would be forward-located would be the Canadian CF-18 or the US F-15 would depend very much on the circumstances. But while they operate in the Canadian NORAD region, they would be under its

⁷ Commons Debates, 27 Mar. 1987, p. 4633.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., p. 4634.