

sums in the development of such a system but as yet has not taken the decision to deploy it. The costs involved are staggering, with estimates ranging from \$10 billion to \$30 billion depending on the planned coverage. Many experts believe, however, that such a system could be overwhelmed or circumvented by an increment to offensive capability at a fraction of the cost.

Until a decision is taken with respect to this question, the policy of the government with regard to air defence will continue to be as outlined in the 1964 White Paper.

Although, as stated, our contribution to the defence of this continent is largely in the field of air defence, our naval and land forces also form part of our partnership with the United States with respect to continental defence.

United Nations

Turning now, Mr. Chairman, to our other major international commitment: to the United Nations; it is a fact that Canada has participated in every UN peace-keeping operation since that organization was formed. Canada has made in the past and continues to make a significant contribution to world order by taking initiatives and supplying forces to help dampen regional and local conflicts that would escalate into major wars and thereby endanger the world.

Despite the difficulties involved, it is the Government's intention to continue to be ready in this field. In fact, one of the results of our emphasis on global mobility for our new force structure will be an increased capability to move a wide variety of forces anywhere in the interests of Canada's foreign policy and its main aim of maintaining world peace.

More than 2100 Canadian servicemen are currently serving abroad under the United Nations. From official UN reports and, in some cases, personal observation, I can tell you that no finer or more respected troops wear the UN blue beret.

I think all Canadians can be proud of the quick reaction of our forces to the latest request for military personnel made by Secretary-General U Thant. Immediately following the Secretary-General's successful request for a cease-fire in the India-Pakistan war, Canada, along with various other nations, was requested to assist. In Kashmir where a UN military observer group had been operating for some 18 months, Canada had been providing nine military observers and one RCAF Caribou aircraft. The contribution was strengthened by the addition of ten more observers including officers from all three branches of the services.

South of Kashmir an entirely new and separate UN observer organization called The United Nations India-Pakistan Observer Mission (or UNIPOM) was established to help keep the peace along some 800 miles of the international border between India and Pakistan. Of the 90 military observers allocated to UNIPOM, twelve were Canadians of all three services. To meet the urgent requirements for air support in Kashmir and UNIPOM, the RCAF rapidly formed and dispatched 117 Air Transport United comprised of three Otter and two Caribou aircraft together with approximately 100 officers and men. It is noteworthy that the bulk of all Canadian servicemen were dispatched within a few days of the receipt of the request from the UN.

In this tragic and potentially dangerous conflict between India and Pakistan, both fellow members of the Commonwealth, Canada is making a meaning-