

*NORAD—Canada-U.S. Agreement*

go no further than to say that the present provision for consultation makes consultation almost instantaneous. The consultation will continue throughout the days of peace which, we hope, lie ahead, and will also be available at all times if a crisis occurs. That is why the importance of consultation is written into the agreement, and why it is stressed over and over again.

With regard to the substance of air defence and its problems or policies, I have already said that the Minister of National Defence will deal with this question.

I have already mentioned the NATO aspects of NORAD. We in this country regard our forces in Canada as forces maintained for the purposes of NATO. Indeed, there has been recognition of that in the discussions that have taken place, in the consideration that has been given to this matter, and in the regular reports. We are partners under this agreement in North America because we are in NATO and because of our relative geographical position.

Some there are who feel that NATO is directed entirely to the defence of Europe. It should be recalled that there are substantial defence obligations outside of NATO in many parts of the world, and that NATO maintains forces in North America for this purpose too. NORAD is the nearest thing to a joint United States-Canadian headquarters established by the two governments acting through their chiefs of staff in accordance with the agreement recorded in the exchange of notes, coupled with the detailed terms of reference which cannot be published, because to do so would furnish military information of value. I know the Leader of the Opposition would be the first to say that such information should not be given.

All the NATO countries have been fully informed of NORAD's establishment. NORAD will keep the NATO military authorities informed of its activities by means of reports, and—I want to add this, and emphasize this—it will act at all times in accordance with the strategic objectives of the NATO council. It will do so under the authority of the organization to which I referred earlier—the Canada-United States regional planning group—and under the direction of the United States and Canadian governments.

Read those letters which were exchanged and you will find this; that NORAD is part of the NATO concept; that it is in Canada's interest within the alliance to regard it as such. But were it so characterized or not—and as to that it would be no advantage to determine in the years ahead—it represents the achievement of the purposes and objectives to which the Leader of the Opposition

pointed in the speech to which I referred at the beginning of my remarks.

There is one other matter to which I should like to refer. I should like to point out that NORAD is not part of the strategic air command, which is the deterrent striking force of the United States. They operate under different organizations and for very different purposes, although both have the vital responsibility of protecting the SAC bases, and because of the need of that unity in our objectives, the maintenance of peace and of the lives and property of the people on this continent.

In concluding, I wish to announce a further development aside from NORAD, except in so far as NORAD and the strategic air command are joined together to protect the SAC bases, in co-operation, extended by Canada and Canadian forces to the strategic air command in order to strengthen the deterrent power of the free world as a whole. This development relates to a further strengthening of the deterrent to aggression. The Minister of National Defence informed the house on November 27, 1957, and again on January 10 of this year, that United States aircraft carrying nuclear weapons are permitted to overfly Canadian territory from time to time but that each flight is given specific Canadian government clearance. I referred to that fact again on June 3. That course of action has been followed for almost seven years. In granting this permission Canada has been assisting in the continuing development of the strategic counter-offensive capability of the free world.

As a result of discussion with the United States government extending over more than a year the Canadian government has decided to co-operate in a further strengthening of the readiness capability of the United States strategic air command which, I think it will be generally agreed, constitutes the free world's main deterrent against aggression. The house will realize that the interests of national security impose certain restrictions, and I wish to say that the Canadian government has decided to permit the establishment of facilities at certain Canadian bases for use by tanker aircraft of the strategic air command. These refueling facilities will contribute to the effectiveness of the strategic air command, to its ability to react quickly in face of the reduced time of warning which must now be contemplated in the event of aggression by reason of the recent scientific and technological developments. These facilities will be used obviously in peacetime on a reduced basis but will be capable of immediate expansion under emergency conditions. The two governments are about to