60/7   CANADA AND COLLECTIVE DEFENCE

A statement by Prime Minister Diefenbaker
to the House of Commons on January 18.

All of us know . . . that the problem of defence
remains with us the major cause of the tremendous expenditures
that we in the free world are obliged to make. . . .   A rigid or
final course would have no regard to the changes that are
taking place internationally. Indeed, in the last three days
a speech has been made by Mr. Khrushchev to which I also
intend to allude and which in every way bears out the views
expressed by the Minister of National Defence over and over
again in the House at the time of the cancellation of the
contract for the CF-105, that the day of manned bombers was
about to be over and that in the 1960's we would be in the
missile age.

The day before yesterday Mr. Khrushchev outlined in
detail almost exactly the viewpoint expressed by the Minister
of National Defence, his information having been secured from
those in responsible positions among the Chiefs of Staff and
also from the various portions of the free world which gather
information in this regard. Indeed, when he took that stand
there were many people across Canada who could not believe that
the U.S.S.R. was about to bring about an end to the manned
bomber.

I mention that matter because in defence the uncertainty
to which all of the free world is subject arises from the fact
that it can never be finally determined whether or not the U.S.S.R.
means to go to war or whether, if it does so, the war will be a
nuclear one. This debate on the question of what should be
done in respect of defence is taking place not only in Canada,
the United States, France, the United Kingdom and the free
countries in Europe but everywhere in the world. The United
States has been following a course which is based on the fact
that if war comes it will be a cataclysmic nuclear war, the
result being that ground forces and conventional weapons will
take second place.