

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, February 20, 1969
(43)

The Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence met at 11:05 a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Wahn, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Anderson, Barrett, Brewin, Cafik, Fairweather, Forrestall, Gibson, Guay (*St. Boniface*), Harkness, Howard (*Okanagan Boundary*), Laniel, Laprise, Legault, MacDonald (*Egmont*), MacLean, Marceau, Penner, Prud'homme, Ryan, Smith (*Northumberland-Miramichi*), Stewart (*Cochrane*), Thompson (*Red Deer*), Wahn, Winch (24).

Also present: Messrs. Buchanan, Gillespie, Hymmen, M.P.'s.

Witness: Mr. David Golden, President, Air Industries Association of Canada.

The Chairman made the following report from the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure:

"TUESDAY, February 18, 1969.
(19)

FOURTH REPORT

A meeting of the steering subcommittee was held on Tuesday primarily to plan our proposed trip to Europe. The plan now is that the Committee would leave Sunday, March 9, and it would return to Ottawa Saturday, March 22. Reasonably satisfactory arrangements, I believe, have been made so that those Conservative members who want to attend the annual Conservative meeting can do so and then catch up with the Committee in Europe without too much trouble. Without getting into a lot of detail it is proposed that we go to Cyprus, Germany, England, Switzerland, Sweden, France and Belgium and we will, of course, visit defence installations, but primarily the purpose is to obtain evidence from knowledgeable people that we could not expect to come to Canada to give evidence to the Committee.

In Switzerland and Sweden we will be interested in civil defence and neutrality arrangements. In Belgium, of course, we will visit NATO headquarters. In London and Paris we want to attend briefly some of the institutions of strategic studies. Basically we are attempting to obtain information abroad which is not available to us here in Canada. Originally we had planned to make that trip from March 14 to the end of the month. It has been moved forward five days because the members of the steering subcommittee have come to the conclusion it would be desirable, if possible, to submit a preliminary report to Parliament before the Easter recess. This, of course, would depend upon the wishes of the members of the Committee but certainly almost unanimously the members of the steering subcommittee thought it would be desirable to present a preliminary report and it was felt we should be working on that report,