

CHANGES IN CANADA'S NORTHERN RADAR DEFENCES

The following statement was made in the House of Commons on March 9 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer:

A review has been made of the early radar warning lines in order to ascertain whether economies could be made without reducing the overall effectiveness of the system. As a result of this review and following consultation with U.S. and NORAD authorities, it has been decided to close down four radar stations on the RCAF's Pinetree radar line - RCAF Stations Edgar, Ontario, Ste. Sylvestre and Parent in Quebec, and Beaverbank, Nova Scotia.

Pinetree radar stations were established as a joint venture with the United States, and negotiations have now been completed to co-ordinate the details of the de-activation.

Some units of the Pinetree line in Eastern Canada, which were among the first to be completed, became operational in 1952. Radar equipment was not as powerful or reliable as it is today, and the stations were constructed relatively close together.

However, the detection and tracking capabilities of radar stations have improved, through automation and other means, to the extent that it is now possible to reduce the density of radar sites in Eastern Canada.

Approximately 700 military and 300 civilian manpower positions will be affected by the closing of the four radar bases. It is intended to re-assign service personnel to help alleviate current shortages in other RCAF high-priority programmes.

It is intended to close down the bases as rapidly as possible, and closure is expected to be generally completed this summer.

An annual saving of some \$6 million in operating and maintenance costs currently associated with the four stations will be realized.

A number of radar stations in the U.S.A. were closed out last year, as were doppler stations in Canada forming part of the DEW line. Earlier this year, the de-activation of part of the Mid-Canada line, built and maintained by Canada, was announced.

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TERRITORIAL HOUSING PROJECT

Fifty-one houses are being built or planned in the Northwest Territories, and 23 are under construction or at the planning stage in the Yukon, under the low-cost housing programmes of the two territorial governments. "These are the 1963 totals for new homes being built under the low-cost housing programmes of the Northwest and Yukon Territories governments", Mr. B.G. Sivertz, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, said recently in Ottawa. "It was our first year. We expect a substantial increase in the number of applications for loans in 1964 and in the years to come."

Passed in 1962, the low-cost housing ordinances provide assistance to residents of the territories who are not able to qualify for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation loans. The programme established under the ordinances provides a maximum first-mortgage loan of \$6,000 and a grant of \$1,000 to eligible applicants. The loan which is advanced progressively following inspections of the house in the building stage by government engineers, is repayable in equal monthly installments over a period of up to 20 years.

FIRST ORDINANCES

In July 1961 the first housing ordinances were passed by the governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories to promote the construction of new homes. This programme was designed for residents of the territories who qualified for a first-mortgage loan under the National Housing Act. This housing ordinance made available to residents a second-mortgage loan of up to \$2,000, to help reduce the required down payment on houses built to CMHC standards. To date, loans made available under this programme total \$5,600 in the Northwest Territories and \$41,000 in the Yukon.

Under the low-cost housing programme established in 1962, supplementing the earlier housing programme, first-mortgage loans totalling \$161,000 have been approved for new homes in the Northwest Territories, while approved first-mortgage loans in the Yukon total \$93,500.

Twenty-nine grants totalling \$29,000 have also been provided residents of the Northwest Territories. In the Yukon, houses exceeding \$7,000 in value do not qualify for the \$1,000 grant.

In addition to loans already approved and granted, applications for loans totalling \$128,000 in the Northwest Territories and \$34,000 in the Yukon are being considered.

The average cost of the houses being built or planned under the programme in the Northwest Territories is \$8,500; the average cost for houses in the Yukon is \$11,250.

INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVE SEMINAR

An "incentive seminar" is to be held in Windsor, Ontario, on March 25, to acquaint important segments of business, labour and the professions, principally in the Windsor area, with the benefits available to those who qualify under the incentive programme of the newly-formed federal Department of Industry. It will be the first of its kind and, it is hoped, will serve as a model for similar meetings in other parts of Canada.

The seminar has been organized by the Greater Windsor Foundation, in association with the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, the Windsor & District Labour Council, the Greater Windsor Industrial Commission and the City of Windsor.

The keynote speaker at the seminar will be Mr. David A. Golden, Deputy Minister of Industry, who will outline the work of his Department and of the