

While realizing that the main deterrent to war is the retaliatory forces, we must continue to maintain a good defensive posture. For one thing, we must protect the offensive forces, such as the SAC bomber bases, from destruction by a surprise attack. Protection against such an eventuality is one of the principal roles of our air defence forces on the North American continent. The aim of the Western alliance is, first of all, to deter the outbreak of war. Should this fail and an attack follow, we must be in a position to defend ourselves and to destroy the enemy's ability to continue to wage war.

I turn now to defence against the manned bomber. Despite the diminishing threat of the manned bomber in the years ahead, to which I have already referred, it has been considered sensible to maintain defences against such a form of attack on this continent. With the development of stand-off bombs launched from manned aircraft, it is imperative that the interception of such aircraft should take place as far distant from the target as possible. To accomplish this and to provide defence in depth, Canadian and United States interceptors would engage enemy bombers as far north as possible.

We are maintaining nine squadrons of CF-100 all-weather interceptors and are making arrangements so that United States interceptors can operate in Canadian air space, and consideration is being given to providing facilities so that United States aircraft may be able to operate from Canadian airfields. Those hostile bombers that succeed in escaping these defences would then be engaged by a series of Bomarc units located close to the Canadian-United States border. In other words, we are concerned with area rather than point defence. The United States are providing some point defences at their key strategic bases, SAC bomber bases, by such missiles as the Nike-Hercules.

As we are participating jointly with the United States in the air defence of North America under NORAD, it is only good sense to equip our air defence forces with similar weapons so as to permit the most effective joint operation. The United States Air Force, faced with the same requirement for an area air defence missile, are developing the Bomarc as a weapon to complement the other elements of the defence system against bomber aircraft; the radar warning system is also being developed, interceptor aircraft and the semi-automatic ground environment.

Two Bomarc B units will be stationed in Canada, one near North Bay, Ontario, and one in northern Quebec, as part of a system protecting the heavily-populated areas of both Canada and the United States. The United States Air Force are now engaged in establishing their portion of the over-all system stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with interlocking stations. While some changes in quantities have occurred as the system has developed, the first units will soon be operational.