

From time to time suggestions have been made that we should turn over part of our armed forces to the UN. To date there has been no inclination on the part of the UN to accept this kind of offer, and the maintenance of a standby battalion which would be available if required seems to be the best alternative in these circumstances.

### Canadian Defence Policy

As I said at the outset, Canadian defence policy is an extension of our foreign policy. We provide contributions to the collective defence of the free world and to the maintenance of peace. Our contributions are pooled with those of other nations through the agencies of NATO, NORAD and the United Nations.

Our contributions at this time are those which have been agreed to in the past. They are as I have set them out for you. It is the policy of the Government to make effective those weapons systems which have been acquired as part of the Canadian contribution, including making immediately available nuclear devices required to make our contribution credible. Furthermore, it is the policy of the Government to undertake a thorough review of our defence policy and commitments in order to determine the best and most effective contribution we can make to the collective defence of the free world and to the maintenance of peace in the years ahead.

In order to facilitate the review, certain action has been taken. All major procurement programmes are being reconsidered. In particular, any procurement programme which would tend to limit future policy or interfere with the exercise of future options is being carefully reviewed.

One of these programmes is the General Purpose Frigate Programme. It is a project involving the expenditure of large sums of money. For this reason all present and likely future options have to be carefully considered before proceeding.

Another major programme under review is the acquisition of additional CF-104 aircraft for "backup" to the eight squadrons being formed in Europe. We are considerably concerned about the effectiveness of the four squadrons to be located on the two French bases at Marville and Grostenquin. As members of the Committee know, the French Government has so far not permitted the stockpiling of nuclear weapons for NATO on its territory. In consequence, the weapons for the four squadrons would not be readily at hand, and those aircraft to be maintained on quick-reaction alert would have to be deployed to other bases. This raises the further question of vulnerability. In view of these problems, it is considered desirable to review at once the alternatives which may be available now or in the future. The CF-104 is specially designed for the strike role and does not readily lend itself to other employment. Consequently, we intend to carefully review the question before proceeding with any additional procurement.