

in the United Nations Security Council for a system of control in the Arctic regions. This proposal was an honest endeavour on the part of Canada and its allies to work out measures of control over military activities on this important frontier which would give security to all countries participating, including the Soviet Union. We have not had, nor do we have, any intention, as suggested in the letter to us, of imposing a system of inspection on the Russians. We are, however, seeking to work out in collaboration with them and our other Arctic neighbours a system which will satisfy the needs of all and remove the fears, from whichever side they may arise, of air attack launched without warning. For our part we are continuing to study the possibilities of such a system of control in the hope that the Soviet Union will come to recognize that this system would play an essential part in any effective scheme of security and disarmament.

"Mr. Khrushchev's letter is, however, not entirely negative. It does indicate willingness on the part of the Soviet Union to go along with proposals recently made by President Eisenhower for an immediate study of methods for controlling the suspension of nuclear tests. I have made clear our anxiety that progress be made in this important aspect of disarmament, and welcome this promising sign. If this fruitful project is to be carried out, good will and a spirit of forbearance are required on all sides. For this reason, therefore, I will refrain from taking issue with Mr. Khrushchev over the misrepresentations and allegations in his letter and emphasize rather the more hopeful aspect of his message."

On June 3, Mr. Diefenbaker made the following statement on charges that Strategic Air Command bombers fly over Canada with nuclear weapons in the direction of the Soviet Union.

"Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition indicated in general terms his intention to ask whether the charges that Strategic Air Command bombers fly over Canada with nuclear weapons in the direction of the Soviet Union are true.

"First of all I should state that the letter from Mr. Khrushchev is still being studied, and I would not wish to take a definitive position now upon any of its details. May I, however, draw the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to page 3123 of *Hansard* for January 10, when the matter was before the House, and also page 3188 of *Hansard* of January 11, where earlier remarks by the Minister of National Defence and myself are to be found. Those replies and the answer given by the Minister of National Defence on November 27, 1957, at page 1566 of *Hansard* provide much of the answer to the present question. I refer specifically now to the latter question which appears at page 1566, where the Hon. Member

for Burin-Burgeo (Mr. Carter) asked this question:

'May I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of a reported statement made by the British foreign minister to the effect that United States bombers flying on routine flights over Britain carry live bombs in order to maintain a state of readiness at all times, can the minister state whether United States planes with such bombs are permitted to fly over Canada?'

"To which the Minister of National Defence replied as follows:

'By agreement with the United States, only with prior permission from Canada.'

"In the passages to which I have referred the House was informed that United States bomber aircraft carry nuclear weapons over Canada only with prior permission from Canada; that each flight is dealt with separately by specific application, and there is no blanket authority; that the weapons are inactivated in order to avoid the possibility of accidents; and that the procedures being followed are unchanged from those which had been instituted by the previous Government.

"The earlier questions were more concerned with the nature of the international arrangements and with safety precautions than with the fact that flights by the Strategic Air Command might be taking place over Canada. Nevertheless, the answers to which I have referred did make it plain that such flights do take place. The Leader of the Opposition, I am sure, will at once recognize that it would not be in the public interest for me to give any indication of either the frequency of such flights or the numbers of aircraft involved. However, in order to provide information such as that to those who are of the Privy Council the Government will at all times be prepared to give that information privately. However, I wish to make one thing perfectly clear, that none of those flights to which I have made reference has approached or been to the borders of Canada and the U.S.S.R."

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## JUMP IN HOUSING

Starts on the construction of new residential units in April continued the sharp upward trend in evidence for some months, rising to 13,180 units from 8,700 a year earlier, Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in an advance statement. This boosted January-April starts almost 80 per cent to 30,540 units from last year's like total of 17,110 units.

Completions rose in April to 8,981 units from 7,019 a year ago, boosting the January-April total to 35,296 units from 31,656. Units in various stages of construction at April 30 climbed nearly 25 per cent to 68,167 units from 54,730, due to a larger year-to-year increase in starts compared to completions.