

You may be interested to hear something of the steps which have been taken in Canada in this field. We now have ready facilities from which a central corps of the Government can carry on outside of Ottawa under conditions of nuclear war even if there is serious radioactive fallout in this area. What we have tried to do in my country is to plan an organization which will preserve some degree of governmental and economic organization during the initial period of a nuclear war. The purpose we have had in mind has been to decentralize as far as possible.

Recent studies of the probable economic situation arising from conditions of a nuclear attack indicate that the problem of providing and distributing essential commodities for both military and civilian purposes would be critical and complicated. It would be necessary to have not only an organization with clear unified control over supplies of all types, but one that could be decentralized not only to regional but, if necessary, local areas.

In the uncertain conditions to be expected as a result of a nuclear attack, it is considered that the flexibility and widespread distribution of transport would be of major importance in helping us to survive and reorganize the economy. No one can foresee what part of our transportation resources will be left in an operating condition following a nuclear attack on this continent. Decisions will have to be taken promptly and any doubt as to where authority lay would result in serious delay and confusion. It is necessary then that we plan in advance of such a contingency in order to have unified control of all types of transportation in an emergency.

Transportation Problems

I would, for a moment, like to refer to some of the problems involved in the different forms of transportation which would be brought about with the outbreak of a war.

Civil aviation is subject to some government control in peacetime and the switch-over to a complete system of security control which would be required in an emergency should not present too much difficulty. The main task during the survival period will be the preservation of aircraft, airfield equipment and operating personnel. Plans for the use of air transport after the initial period of attack will be based on the principle of pooling resources in the national interest.

I might point out that a nuclear war will pose some serious problems with respect to aircraft operations. Aircraft may become contaminated with the radioactive residue by flight through the radioactive cloud or by fallout descending upon them.