

the Arctic above the Sixtieth Parallel. As each day passes, I see an increasing need for an Arctic base, not simply to support the fighter but primarily to open the North by providing the infrastructure to attract commercial interests and to allow a physical presence on the ground through which our sovereignty may be visibly exercised. I see this base being developed under a federal "umbrella" and jointly financed and administered by all federal departments with active northern interests. It would have to be capable of accepting jet-powered aircraft year round, as well as providing harbour facilities for as much of the year as possible. We recently began interdepartmental consultations; however, it is too early to discuss this matter in this forum.

The Canadian army

I see the army being affected most. At present we have four formations in Canada consisting of three combat groups and the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Two of these are located in the West, primarily in Alberta. My two major problems with the current army posture are that it could be better balanced geographically, and that I do not have enough people to fill the "sharp-end" vacancies that exist. I could correct these problems in a number of ways. Something along the following lines could work well:

The Airborne Regiment could be relocated and form part of the order of battle of another formation.

We should then have three, rather than four, major army formations in Canada, each with integral supporting arms and services, as follows:

(a) Brigade West

The headquarters would probably be located in Edmonton, with major units in Victoria, Calgary and Winnipeg.

(b) Brigade East

Headquarters at Valcartier, major units located at Gagetown [New Brunswick], Valcartier and The Citadel [Quebec].

(c) Regimental Combat Group Centre

Here I see the formation of a highly mobile, rapid-reaction formation, with its headquarters at Petawawa [Ontario]. It could consist of an air-landed battalion and a major airborne unit formed from the current Canadian Airborne Regiment, in which there would be: an RCR [Royal Canadian Regiment] Commando,