

That agreement was worked out to the mutual advantage of both countries and Canadian officers have taken a full share of responsibility and have done outstanding work in carrying it out.

The question of defensive nuclear weapons is one that must receive the attention of all the countries. We believe strongly in limiting the spread of nuclear weapons at the independent disposal of national governments. ...

In December 1957, I was one of those who attended the meeting of the NATO powers in Paris. We agreed to the establishment of stockpiles of nuclear warheads in NATO nations, to be readily available for use by nuclear forces in Europe who were then confronted with the threat of Russian nuclear weapons against them.

During 1958 the Canadian Government studied intensively the arms required by Canadian forces in modern circumstances, and we reached the decision we would provide aircraft for the purposes of NATO. At that time I made it perfectly clear, as I shall point out in a moment, that those forces would have to be equipped, in order to be fully effective, with defensive nuclear weapons if and when the need arose. That was recognized in taking the decision that was announced in September 1958, to install "Bomarc" anti-aircraft missiles in Canada.

...In 1958, when the "Bomarc" was first laid down as a plan, the great challenge to North America was believed to be bombers carrying bombs. That is what we thought. Today that is changed. More and more there is a phasing out in connection with the bomber threat as more and more inter-continental ballistic missiles are increasing in number. Those are some of the stands we have taken and I set forth the views of the Government on February 20, 1959, as quoted by the Leader of the Opposition. In accordance with that statement, we proceeded to acquire equipment, aircraft, launchers and other items necessary to enable the Canadian forces to be ready to use defensive weapons if and when that became necessary.

#### Strike-Reconnaissance Role

In May 1959, the Supreme Commander of NATO forces visited Ottawa and proposed to the Government that the First Canadian Air Division in Europe should undertake a strike-reconnaissance role to protect the NATO forces from the first attack on them. That was placed before the House of Commons. The Government considered the proposal, and early in July announced its decision in the House to accept this role and to equip eight squadrons of the division to discharge it. Our Ambassador informed the NATO Council of this decision.

While nothing was specified about arming the aircraft with nuclear weapons, it was realized by all that this would be desirable and that nuclear weapons should be available as and when required, under joint control, in NATO stockpiles in accordance with the general NATO decision of December 1957, to which I have referred. Similarly, but less important, plans were made in connection with short-range defensive missiles. ...

We have spent billions of dollars on defence since World War II. Much of what has been spent might be considered by some to have been wasted, but if it had not been for the defences we built up, and those associated with us, our freedom might long since have disappeared. Since the time we entered into these commitments I have referred to things which have changed