

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): In the event of General Partridge seeking authority from the United States government, is he also obligated to seek authority from the Canadian government as well?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): Mr. Pearkes answered that question in the house. I would like to have a look at his answer. It was several weeks ago. I would emphasize, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this is not an air force for offensive operations, it is an air defence arrangement.

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): I realize that, Mr. Minister, but the thing about which I am wondering is, is General Partridge going to operate under the authority alone of the United States government or is he going to operate under the authority of both the United States and the Canadian governments.

Mr. PEARSON: I am speaking now of this interim period.

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): I would like to get a little better acquainted with the facts. I will ascertain that. My recollection is that that was answered, that a statement was made in the house. I do not want to say something just off the cuff in that context.

Mr. HOLOWACH: Mr. Chairman, is it a fact that, as matters stand at the present time, decisions can be made by this military command without first receiving approval from either the United States or the Canadian governments?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): That is the point I would like to be clear on.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Mr. Chairman, that question was answered by Mr. Pearkes this morning.

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): I forget the answer. I was not in the house. I was in the gallery. Perhaps that is where I should have stayed.

Mr. PEARSON: He said, Mr. Chairman, that the United States commander got his authority from both governments.

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): What happens if they disagree?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): I think they would agree in the case of a hostile attack or invasion.

Mr. HOLOWACH: There is a second question I would like to place before the Minister of External Affairs. Does this arrangement involve only Canada and the United States, or is NATO interlocked in the decisions which are made by this committee?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): As I stated last day, NATO was informed of it—NATO was sent a copy of that communique. I am not in a position to answer. I would have to ask someone from the Department of National Defence to explain to me the ramifications and the inter-relations with NATO.

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): The sentence in the press release on that point simply says:

This bilateral arrangement extends the mutual security objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the air defences of the Canada-United States region.

I think we would all agree with that statement of fact, but it hardly provides a constitutional basis for an arrangement with NATO, does it?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): I have before me this statement that the Canada-United States region is within the NATO area and is obviously in the North Atlantic Treaty.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further questions?