

at great heights. The requirements for a strike reconnaissance aircraft do not demand long range and great height, but do call for the ability to fly fast at low altitudes. The two requirements are not compatible, and it was not deemed practical to adapt present aircraft to this new role. Past experience shows that to have attempted to design and build a new aircraft in Canada would have been prohibitive in cost and would have taken much longer to become operational.

I mentioned a few minutes ago that to understand the estimates one must know what our policy and commitments are. For the benefit of those who have not read "Defence 1959", I would quote from that paper:

"Canadian defence policy derives directly from our foreign policy and is designed to ensure national security and the preservation of world peace....

These objectives are reached through collective arrangements within NATO and the United Nations. While the increased range of offensive weapons equipped with nuclear warheads brings the North American continent within the target area in any future war, it is realized that the defence of this area cannot be considered in isolation. The advantage, in collective defence within the framework of an Alliance such as NATO is that an integrated balanced force can be provided by each member nation concentrating on the provision of those elements which constitute its particular needs and can be most effectively maintained.

In order to meet the objectives of the Alliance and in support of the United Nations, it is the defence policy of Canada to provide forces for: The defence against an attack on the North American continent; the collective defence, and deterrent forces of NATO in Europe and the North Atlantic; the United Nations to assist that organization in attaining its peaceful aims.

It should be understood that since the development of offensive weapons has not been matched by comparable advances in defensive technology, effective retaliatory forces are still the best and perhaps only defence. That is part of the concept of NATO.

If the deterrent is to be effective it must contain four basic elements. The free world must have forces in being, fully trained and immediately available for action. They must be so organized as to be able to repel and counter any attack. We must also have the will to build up and maintain those forces and the determination to employ them if circumstances warrant; and the potential enemy must be convinced of the strength of our forces and our willingness to use them if required. Some of the exaggerated statements regarding the obsolescence of some of our equipment have not been helpful in that respect.