

AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM—EUROPE

Question No. 639—**Mr. McKinnon:**

1. Did the government agree to participate in an Airborne Warning and Control System in Europe and (a) if so, on what date was the decision taken (b) if not, will a decision be taken and, if so (i) on what date (ii) will Parliament be asked to approve participation?

2. Did Canada participate in the development phase of AWACS for Europe and, if so, in what amount?

3. Has a programme cost for AWACS been agreed upon among NATO Nations and, if so (a) what is it (b) what is Canada's share as a (i) percentage of the total cost (ii) dollar figure?

4. Does DND's capital budget contain provision for Canada's contribution to European AWACS?

5. Will Canadian Armed Forces personnel be involved in the European AWACS programme, such as, flight crews, maintenance crews, training crews, etc?

6. Does the government attach a higher priority to AWACS for use in Europe or in North America?

7. Does the government propose to make any contribution towards either the capital or operating costs of the AWACS which the USA will fly in North America and, if so (a) in what amount (b) will Canada make personnel and/or bases available?

8. Will American AWACS operate on (a) a regular (b) exceptional basis in Canadian airspace?

9. Has the USA been urging Canada to participate in European AWACS as a matter of higher priority than North American AWACS?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): 1. Yes. (a) Dec. 6, 1978. (b) Not applicable.

2. Canada has contributed to the initial research and development phase for a total of \$250,000 over the period 1974 to 1978.

3. Yes.

(a) Acquisition cost—\$1,826 M. (1977 U.S.); Annual cost for operation and support—104 M. (1977 U.S.) from 1985 onward.

(b)(i) 9.8 per cent of the acquisition cost; 9.3 per cent of the operation and support cost;

(ii) \$180 M. (1977 U.S.)—acquisition cost; \$9.5 M. (1977 U.S.)—operation and support costs after 1985.

4. No. However, DND is now examining appropriate arrangements to include funding of program costs in the defence services program.

5. Yes. Canadian military personnel will be involved in the manning of the NATO AEW force headquarters and the airborne component.

6. The question of priority does not arise because the AWACS system in Europe and in North America is considered a military requirement in support of the total deterrent and defence posture of the alliance.

7. (a) and (b) Canada will not contribute to the capital costs. However, discussions are taking place with the U.S. to explore the possibility of some joint arrangements for training and co-manning of some U.S. AWACS aircraft within the NORAD context.

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8. (a) and (b) It is envisaged that U.S. AWACS aircraft would operate in Canada on a regular basis during NORAD training and exercises and in times of crisis or hostilities.

9. No. As a NATO-wide system, all members of the alliance have been encouraged to participate in European AWACS.

ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT

Question No. 703—**Mr. Jones:**

1. When was the Order of Military Merit created and why?

2. How are candidates chosen for this Order?

3. Is language qualification taken into account at all?

4. Does the Governor General give routine approval to these names or does he actually make the final decision?

5. Is it true that the list was rejected at first by the Governor General in the spring of 1977 and if so for what reason?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): 1. The Order of Military Merit was established July 1, 1972 for the purpose of according recognition to Canadians and other persons for military merit.

2. Candidates are chosen by an advisory committee which was established in accordance with the constitution of the order and such names are submitted to the chief of the defence staff (CDS). The CDS in turn recommends to the minister those nominations which in his opinion have the greatest merit. The minister recommends a final list of nominees to the Governor General.

3. No.

4. The Governor General, as Chancellor of the Order, makes appointments to the Order.

5. No.

AIRCRAFT—STARFIGHTER

Question No. 705—**Mr. Jones:**

1. What is the role of the Starfighter in the Canadian Forces? What is the actual intended use of the Starfighter?

2. How old are the Canadian Starfighters? What is the total cost of their upkeep per year?

3. How many Starfighters have crashed in Europe in the last 12 years? How many Canadians were killed or injured in these accidents, if any?

4. How much time is required in maintenance on the Starfighter daily?

5. Does the government intend to replace these, and if so, when and at what cost?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): 1. The role of the Starfighter in the Canadian Forces is to conduct offensive and defensive air support operations. It is currently deployed in this role and will continue to be so used.

2. The average age is 14 years. The total operation and upkeep cost per year is \$79,359,876.

3. Thirty-six Canadian Starfighters have crashed in Europe during the past 12 years. Seventeen Canadians were killed and three were injured in the accidents.

4. 29.3 man-hours per aircraft per day.