

95. In view of the present situation, what are the possible wars with which the world and Canada would be faced? The worst would most certainly be an all-out nuclear war. Some people maintain that a nuclear conflict could be localized. But opinions to the contrary are many. Canada must face the possibility of a generalized nuclear conflict in which the nations of the Western alliance and of the Eastern block would be the two main opponents. The second possibility would be a conventional war, that is a war without nuclear weapons. Finally, since the Second World War, there have been in the world what is known as brush fire wars, that is localized conflicts.

96. How could a nuclear conflict come about? Most probably by a conventional war escalating into a nuclear conflict. Europe has been mentioned as an area where such a conflict could start, but it may be that the stalemate of the "balance of terror" has made this type of conflict most unlikely.

97. The possibility of a surprise attack from the Soviet against any NATO member and of the instantaneous retaliation with all the nuclear offensive powers of the United States and its allies cannot be ignored.

98. Conventional war breaks out more easily. We were witness to several such occurrences since the end of the 1939-1945 war. The most serious one was without any doubt the Korean war. Nowadays war remains essentially conventional as long as it does not involve the direct participation of the United States and the Soviets in the same war. If the two great opponents were to participate directly in a war, the latter would almost certainly become nuclear.

99. As long as the nuclear weapons of the USSR are matched by the United States missile systems, Strategic Air Command, Polaris firing nuclear submarines and a number of other American nuclear weapons, and until one side or the other perfects an anti-missile missile it is unlikely that a nuclear war will break out.

100. This Committee recommends:

- (a) That the United States retain final authority over its nuclear arms made available to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- (b) That Canada positively should not engage in the development and production of nuclear weapons.

101. In order to follow up chapter eight, further time is required to examine the proposal that NATO members participate in the preplanning and targeting of nuclear weapons to be available for use on authority of the United States of America.

CHAPTER IX—DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

102. The Committee could not study in all its details the organization of the Department of National Defence, but after the evidence given by the minister, the chiefs of staff and many other witnesses, it can point out some problems which it intends to examine when it resumes its activities during the next session. These are:

- (a) Nature and extent of civilian control.
- (b) The organization of the chief of staff structure.