

First of all, the Armed Forces have established a radar network to cover the main industrial area of Canada and the United States which will use all possible means to detect and identify strange aircraft. As the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Slemon, recently noted, its standards of vigilance will be such that improperly identified planes blundering into the radar web will run the risk of jet attack. Effective procedures have, of course, been worked out to ensure the safety of friendly planes engaged in legitimate activities.

To supplement the work of this radar network, a ground observer corps of civilian volunteers, now numbering some 50,000, will carry out continuous observations from strategically-located observation posts.

Information gathered by this protective screen of military and civilian personnel across Canada will flow into a number of strategically-located Air Defence Control Centres. At these centres, experts will assess the information received and determine the strength and direction of any attacking force.

I am able to announce today that a joint arrangement has been worked out with the Department of National Defence for the employment of a full-time Civil Defence Liaison Officer at R.C.A.F. Air Defence Command Headquarters. In addition, a Senior Civil Defence Warning Controller and four assistant controllers will be employed, on a part-time basis, at each Air Defence Control Centre. These civilian officers, members of the federal civil defence organization, will be charged with alerting immediately the civil defence authorities in those areas lying in the path of the predicted enemy attack.

When the advance warning has been given to the Civil Defence Warning Controller and passed on by him to the target areas affected, it then becomes the responsibility of the local alarm system to alert the police, fire, health, welfare and other services, and to warn the general public.

The civil defence warning system, which is now in full operation, provides direct line service to twenty-two cities across Canada. The system is also tied in with the U.S. Federal Civil Defence Warning System by trans-border tie-lines at such points as Windsor and Detroit, Sarnia and Port Huron and Niagara Falls.

For added protection, and to provide for warning to communities not included in the direct line service, alternative communication facilities have been established which utilize the services of provincial police and forestry radio networks, amateur radio services, mobile communication centres, ship-shore radio facilities, radio-equipped taxis and the normal telephone and telegraph services.

To provide for public warning within target areas, the Federal Government has purchased four hundred 5-horsepower and 2-horsepower 2-tone sirens, complete with control apparatus, for all target areas. More than one hundred of these sirens have already been installed in cities across Canada.