

Inquiries of the Ministry

ago, and if I can in any way clear up the situation by a brief statement, I shall be only too happy to do so.

First of all I must emphasize the fact that General Partridge does not in any sense command any Canadian armed force. The command of the Canadian R.C.A.F. units assigned to the defence of North America is vested in the officer commanding the air defence command at St. Hubert, Quebec. An integrated United States-Canadian headquarters was established last August; this integrated headquarters is known as NORAD.

General Partridge's authority does not extend in any way to the disposition of Canadian forces in Canada, nor has he authority over the logistics of our forces. In peacetime this integrated headquarters, NORAD, will be responsible for the development of plans and procedures to be used in war. These plans and procedures are to be agreed to in peacetime and to be ready for immediate use in an emergency. They will be reviewed, amended if necessary and approved by the chiefs of staff of the two countries, Canada and the United States, and government approval will be sought before any plans are implemented.

NORAD will be responsible for the general pattern of training and the general supervision of practice exercises designed to ensure the readiness of the forces and facilities in time of emergency. In time of war NORAD will be responsible for the direction of air operations in accordance with the plans which have been agreed to in peacetime. These plans will include the rules for identification of aircraft, for action to be taken if aircraft do not comply with those rules, and for the various methods designed to prevent surprise, thus providing time for consultation between service commanders and government leaders. One of the methods I have referred to regarding the gaining of time was the establishment of our warning lines in northern Canada which are now in operation. I emphasize the fact that the decision to go to war must rest with the government of this country and not with any general, of Canadian or any other nationality.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if, arising out of his statement, I might ask the Minister of National Defence if his attention has been drawn to a report in this morning's *Globe and Mail* in which the honourable and gallant gentleman is reported as having stated at a press conference on October 15 that NORAD commanders would have the power by simply pressing a button to send both United States and Canadian fighters, and eventually ground to air missiles, into action.

[Mr. Pearkes.]

Mr. Pearkes: After consultation with the governments concerned.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): He did not say that.

PRINCE ALBERT—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF RADAR INSTALLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Bryson (Humboldt-Melfort): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement made recently by Lieutenant General Simonds, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to reconsider the proposed expenditure of \$2 million in constructing a radar installation at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I do not know what is the meaning of that question. I will simply point out that there are going to be two research radar installations in North America, made necessary in consequence of the consideration given both by the military authorities and also by the scientific groups connected with defence, and I see no reason for a change in any way in so far as that prospective building program is concerned.

R.C.A.F.—REPORTED CHANGES IN TRAINING COMMAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. R. Smith (Calgary South): May I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister confirm speculation that certain major changes are planned in the operation of the R.C.A.F. training command in the immediate future?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of this question. Reductions in the R.C.A.F. NATO training program will lead to certain reorganizational changes involving a reassessment of the facilities required by the R.C.A.F. training command. No firm or positive action has yet been taken on this matter, and in any case no changes are planned for 1958, with the exception of the R.C.A.F. stations at Claresholm and London, which it is expected will be placed on a care and maintenance basis by the end of next year.

Mr. Smith (Calgary South): A supplementary question. Can the minister tell us, then, that there will be definitely not cut-back in R.C.A.F. training other than NATO units?

Mr. Pearkes: Yes, that is correct.