

Defense Problems Bulked Large During Present Year

By DAVE MCINTOSH
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OTTAWA (CP)—A vital, behind-the-scenes debate on defence policy took shape in the capital during 1953.

Generally speaking, the issue centred on the increased importance placed on North American defence and the debate involved how best to achieve more home defence without boosting the defence budget.

Perhaps the most significant public statement on defence was made by Prime Minister St. Laurent April 26 during the Dominion provincial conference. He said: "If a major war commences we cannot but expect at its very beginning—that is, in the first few hours—heavy attacks on North America with large nuclear weapons. These attacks would likely take place on Canadian targets as well as on those in the United States."

With the premise that this country could be badly crippled by a Russian air attack, the great debate on how to strengthen home defences opened up full force. Some of it came into the open, more of it went on behind the scenes in the defence and external affairs departments.

One suggested solution was that the 12 RCAF fighter squadrons in Europe be brought home to augment the nine CF-100 interceptor home defence squadrons. But this would be a blow at the North Atlantic alliance which the government has supported since its formation six years ago.

In 1949, the main threat to the West was considered a Russian stroke at Europe. But with development of long-range jet bombers and more nuclear weapons, the main threat now is thought to be against the industrial might of North America.

U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles said during a visit to Ottawa that Russia would have little hope of winning a major war unless it knocked out North America.

STUDIED AIR STRENGTH
During the year, the RCAF took under serious study the possibility of forming more regular CF-100 squadrons. It was found that the 10 reserve fighter squadrons would be unable to cope with the latest jet planes without long hours of training.

Meanwhile, strengthening of North American defences took a big stride forward with construction of the Mid-Canada and DEW (Distant Early Warning) radar lines.

It is expected the radar gear will be installed next year and that the lines—the Mid-Canada along the 55th parallel, the DEW in the Canadian Arctic—will be in operation by 1957. Canada is building the former for \$170,000,000; the U.S. the latter for \$250,000,000.

At the same time, military planners began laying basic plans for a northward expansion of fighter defences—that is, airfields, hangars and interceptor control radar. This may not come for four or five years.

More North American defence posed a touchy problem for the government: Whether to permit more American troops into Canada to help man defences. There now are fewer than 3,000 U.S. servicemen in Canada, excluding the some 15,000 on the three leased bases in Newfoundland. At year's end, it appeared likely the U.S. would take over manning of the DEW line.

Another aspect of the great debate was whether a country like Canada can afford financially to prepare for two types of war—nuclear and conventional—at the same time.

Up to now, Canada has tried to have it both ways. Some officials feel that this approach drops defence policy between two stools, that as a result Canada is prepared for neither atomic war nor one of the conventional type.

This debate came out into the open briefly last June when Air Vice-Marshal John Plant suggested in a public speech that the army be scrapped to make way for a bigger air force.

Though it was claimed Plant spoke in a jocular vein, it is known that a good many air force officers share this view. To them, it is pointless to maintain a navy and army when in all probability they would never be used in a short, violent war fought with hydrogen bombs and fleets of bombers.

On the other hand, others—chiefly navy and army officers—believe that the hydrogen bomb is recognized by both sides as such a terrible weapon that it will never be employed. That leaves the possibility of comparatively small conventional wars like Korea in which ground and sea forces would be needed.

WOULD INVOLVE CHANGES
If a decision were taken to prepare solely for atomic war and thus rely solely on the deterrent effect of atomic retaliation, big changes could come in the structure of Canada's armed forces.

In recent years, increasing emphasis has been placed on the air force. Its share of the \$1,775,000,000 defence budget this fiscal year is 42 per cent, as much as the navy and army combined. Total strength of the services now is limited to 120,000 but during the year the air force ceiling was raised slightly at the expense of the navy and army. Ceilings now are 51,000 for

NORTHAM
The many friends and relatives of Mr. Wilfred MacDougall regret to learn that he is a patient in the Prince County Hospital, where he underwent a serious operation. His many friends join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

The many friends of Mr. James Dymont are sorry to learn that he is a patient in the Stewart Memorial Health Centre with an attack of pneumonia. All wish this grand old gentleman a speedy recovery to good health.

Friends of Mr. Leaman Campbell will be pleased to learn that he is convalescing favorably, after his recent operation in the Prince County Hospital.

Mrs. Wilfred MacDougall is spending a few days in Summerside, where she will be near her husband, who is a patient in the Prince County Hospital.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 11th, in the Tyne Valley United Church, the annual Christmas concert was held, presented by the pupils of the Sunday School. A large crowd attended and the program was enjoyed by all. At the closing, gifts were presented from the Christmas tree to the teachers and children.

Mrs. John Thompson left recently for her home in Aberdeen, Sask., after spending several weeks visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Maynard, Northam.

The Presbyterian Ladies' Aid met at the home of Mrs. Byron

O'LEARY

The members of the 4H Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Palmer on Thursday night.

Officers for the rink this year are as follows: President, Upton Seaman; Vice-Pres, Charlie Willis; Second Vice, Ed. Turner; Directors, Upton Seaman, Ed. Turner, Dr. L. G. Dewar, Ray Jelley, Donald MacKenzie, Alton Rayner, Charlie Willis, Douglas Adams, Theron Ellis, Averd Harris, Aubin Wedge, Winbourn Harris, James Baglione, Raynel MacNeill, and Keir Ramsay. Secretary is Lorne Johnstone. Caretaker for the year is Bradford Bernard.

Mr. Melvin MacKay of Toronto, is spending his vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacKay in Coleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne MacLean of Coleman, were tendered a farewell party in the Coleman Hall recently. They left for Langar, England.

Miss Blanche Matthews, employee of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Summerside, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Matthews in O'Leary.

The members of the Ladies Aid of the United Church, O'Leary, held their regular meeting at the home of Mrs. J. M. MacWilliams on Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Palmer, O'Leary, motored to Summerside on Friday afternoon, where they visited with relatives and friends.

Mr. Everett MacPhee and Mr. Junior MacPhee of Coleman, left recently for Montreal where they

missed to be employed for the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Smallman, Knutsford, were visitors to Summerside on Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. George Jelly, O'Leary, was a passenger to Summerside on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Theron Ellis and Mrs. D. S. Gorrill, O'Leary, motored to Summerside on Wednesday afternoon on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison Silliker of Mt. Royal, are receiving congratulations on their recent marriage. Mrs. Silliker (ne Miss Doris Darrah) is an employee of the Co-op Store in O'Leary.

Mr. Chandler, Mr. MacInnis, and Mr. Murphy, and two of the librarians of the P. E. I. Libraries, motored to O'Leary on Wednesday evening to assist Mr. Lincow Dewar with the Farm Forum program. It was very interesting and informative, and all members of the 4-H Clubs would benefit by the discussions which took place. The meeting was in the O'Leary Community Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. William Maggison and son of Summerside, were Sunday visitors to the homes of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Maggison and Mrs. Velda MacNeill of Knutsford.

Mr. and Mrs. James Burleigh and children of Ellerslie, were visitors to the home of Mrs. Burleigh's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Jelley in O'Leary.

Mr. and Mrs. Clem O'Connor of Cape Wolfe, and Mrs. Alvin Costain, attended the Farm Forum in O'Leary on Wednesday night.

A Savior Is Born

Again the world finds new hope, new faith as it commemorates the birth of the Christ Child. May this wonderful season bring lasting joy into your heart.


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and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

This is the happy time of year when we think of our friends; and so we think of you, and wish you the best and jolliest of holidays... a Merry Christmas and the very best of Happy New Years!


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