

editorial

Public Grievously Misled About Cost of the Bomarc

There was speculation in British newspapers last month that the Canadian CF-105 Arrow might be bought for the Royal Air Force. This was flattering and encouraging to Arrow supporters, for it served as an endorsement of the airplane's suitability for a modern defense system.

But no one connected with aviation in Canada or in Britain took the rumor seriously. They realize that to any mature and seasoned government matters of defense and economics are inseparable.

Much as the British government might be impressed with the Arrow, they are also conscious of the necessity for a healthy defense industry within the U. K. And the British aviation industry is hungry for military aircraft orders.

Mr. Diefenbaker would do well to study the attitude of the British govern-

ment in this respect—and to think again on the Arrow and the Bomarc. He should look particularly at the cost of the two systems. For if he has been advised that the Bomarc will be cheaper he has been grossly misinformed. And as a result the public has been grievously misled.

The figures below show our estimated costs for the different systems to give comparable defense coverage. That is for substantial equipment of RCAF squadrons with the CF-105; or alternatively for construction and equipment of ten Bomarc sites.

It will be seen that the Bomarc is the more costly proposition, as must be obvious to anyone with a knowledge of aviation and missilery. For the Bomarc, like all present-day anti-aircraft missiles, is limited in coverage, is costly, and is a one-shot expendable article.

Comparative costs to Canadian defense of the interceptor or missile programs

Avro CF-105—sufficient quantity for squadron service.

Already invested	\$403 million
Production of Arrow with U. S. missile and fire control	\$900 million
Sage system (necessary for both aircraft or missiles)	\$100 million

Total \$ 1,403 million

Boeing Bomarc — construction and equipment of ten installations.

Already spent on CF-105 (Must be included as part of over-all defense investment)	\$403 million
Ten Bomarc installations .	\$820 million
One thousand missiles (100 per squadron) estimated at	\$400 million
Sage system (necessary for both aircraft or missiles)	\$100 million

Total \$ 1,723 million

These costs would probably be projected over about the next five years. This represents a future outlay of about \$200 million per year for the Arrow, and about \$244 million per year for the Bomarc missile. For an additional \$300 million on top of the estimated Bomarc costs, the full Arrow-Astra-Sparrow system could be supplied to all RCAF Squadrons.

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