

Item: 15948

Title: CF-100 aircraft; sales to Belgium.

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Canada-U.S. air commands; proposed integration

20. The Prime Minister said that the proposed integration of the Canadian and U.S. air defence commands was a most important issue on which a decision should not be taken by the present administration.

21. The Cabinet agreed that the proposed integration of the operational control Canadian and U.S. air defence commands, which had been under discussion for some time between the military authorities of both countries, was a major issue which should be left for decision by an incoming administration.

CF-100 aircraft; sales to Belgium
(Previous reference Oct. 18, 1956)

22. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said that negotiations for the sale of 53 CF-100 aircraft to Belgium which had been underway for some months were now virtually completed. It was proposed that the United States and Canada would, between them, buy 53 aircraft, together with one year's supply of spare parts, from the A.V. Roe Company for Belgium, at a total cost of \$42.75 million, of which Canada's share would be 25 per cent or \$10.28 million to be provided from the mutual aid appropriations. The transaction was a sound and sensible one and should be completed.

23. During the discussion the following points emerged:

(a) The cost of each aircraft was \$587,600 U.S. After the transfer of each unit and the spare parts and associated equipment, and the technical training of members of the Belgian Air Force, there would be no further obligation for Canada.

(b) The aircraft had originally been ordered for the R.C.A.F. and were now being manufactured. Either delivery had to be accepted or the government would be faced with cancellation charges of well over \$10 million.

24. The Cabinet noted the report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce on the sale of aircraft to Belgium and approved the arrangements made with the United States by which 53 CF-100 aircraft, plus one year's spares, would be bought from the A.V. Roe Company for Belgium at a cost of approximately \$42.75 million, of which Canada would pay about 25 per cent to be charged to the appropriation for mutual aid.