

# Defense Policy Probe By Commons Group Sought by Pearson

Ottawa, Feb. 20 (CP) — Opposition Leader Pearson today called for a complete and comprehensive parliamentary examination of Canadian defense policy.

He spoke in the Commons immediately after Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced the decision to terminate the Arrow jet program and equip Canada's armed forces with nuclear weapons.

Mr. Pearson said the prime minister had stated that Defense Minister Pearkes and the chiefs of staff were engaged in further studies of various alternatives for improvement of Canada's defenses.

This pointed up the desirability and necessity of a complete and comprehensive examination of the whole concept of Canadian defense policy by a committee of the Commons.

"Where are we going from now on in this vital matter?" Mr. Pearson asked.

Mr. Pearson said it would not be appropriate for him to com-

ment at length on the prime minister's statement at this time.

The statement pointed up the fact that Canada had to coordinate its defense policy with that of the United States and with the Atlantic Alliance.

Canada had to play a full and effective role in defense. Its obligations were not lessened by the new Government defense policy.

If a change was to be made from interceptors built in Canada to missiles built in the United States "we must surely be confident in our own minds that this change is going to increase our defense capacity."

Pooling of resources by Canada and the U.S. did not mean that Canada should play a role only in continental defense. It also meant there should be joint development of the resources and industrial capacity of both countries.

Mr. Pearson agreed with Mr. Diefenbaker that manufacture of nuclear weapons should not be extended to other countries.

"No one in this House wants this to happen," he said.