

CANADA AND THE COLD WAR

Did Canada Have an Independent Foreign Policy?



"Dief the Chief" PM 1957-1963



Lester Pearson PM 1963-1968

A. Avro Arrow

□ Reasons for Cancellation

▣ Conspiracy

- US pressure
- Diefenbaker killed it because it was a Liberal initiative

▣ More Likely

- Too expensive
- No orders

▣ Obsolete before completion – bomber interceptor

- ICBMs replaced bombers.



B. The Nuclear Issue – Should Canada be Armed?

- - the Cuban Missile Crisis prompted an intense debate on Canada's defense policy and nuclear weapons
- - the US wanted nuclear weapons on Canadian soil



-after the scrapping of the AVRO Arrow program, Canada did accept US BOMARC missiles that were capable of carrying nuclear warheads

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- - the issue divided the ruling Conservative party in 1963
 - - among Canadian people there was a growing movement of protest against nuclear missiles

2. Election 1963

- - **Diefenbaker** (Conservatives)
 - ▣ argued for Canadian nationalism
 - ▣ an independent foreign policy
- - **Lester Pearson** (Liberals)
 - ▣ proposed accepting nuclear arms
 - ▣ Saw this as a issue of hypocrisy. Why?
- - **business leaders** - supported Pearson
 - ▣ fear Diefenbaker would ruin US relations
 - ▣ ruin business opportunities
- **Pearson** (Liberals) win a minority government
- - agreed to accept nuclear weapons in Canada
- - this is still a hotly debated issue today

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- Question – is this a hypocritical issue? Does Canada depend on the nuclear weapons “umbrella” of safety from the US whether or not we have them on Canadian soil?
 - - we are also a major exporter of uranium and nuclear reactor technology