Militarization of the Arctic
WW2

• The Canadian North becomes a strategic frontier
  • And it militarises
  • Need for more weather stations
• Yukon affected by 1942 construction of the Alaska Highway
  • US-Canada joint defence venture to fight the Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands
WW2

- Arctic becomes a vital air route from US west coast to Europe
  - Crimson Route
- US, Canada, UK build a succession of bases
  - US: Frobisher Bay, Fort Chimo, Goose Bay, Keflavik
  - UK: Reykjavik
Cold War 1950s

- Canada vital to the northern air defences of North America in the Cold War
- Three continental radar lines:
  - Pine Tree Line along the US-Canada border
  - Mid Canada Line at roughly 55 degrees North
  - DEW line at 70 degrees North
- Plus supporting airbases
  - Including CFB Downsview
CONAD: Continental Air Defense  CinC Pac: Commander in Chief Pacific  COMNAVFOR: Commander of Naval Forces  CinC Atl: Commander in Chief Atlantic

Map of Continental Air Defense System Indicates Relationships of Armed Forces Teamed With Ground Observer Corps.

Start of sixth year of Operation Skywatch finds 350,000 volunteers at posts in U.S. and 50,000 in Canada.
US

• Built & operated forward bases, radar & weather stations in Greenland, Iceland as well as Arctic Canada, Alaska
  • Thule, Greenland
  • Camp Century, Greenland
GIUK

• The Greenland-Iceland-UK gap
• A hole in 1950s radar coverage through which Soviet bombers might come
• DYE radar line constructed to close the gap
  • Radar sites at Kulusuk, Greenland, Hofn, Iceland.
The radar lines

- Designed in the 1950s to detect incoming Soviet nuclear bombers
- Pushed the limits of 1950s radar technology
  - Trouble with the Aurora Borealis, moon
- Required nuclear-armed jet aircraft to intercept the bombers
  - Avro Arrow
Diefenbaker Decides:

'SCRAP ARROW'

'No Other Work For Makers of Arrow Or Engines'--Ottawa

By DAVE MACDONALD
Star Staff Correspondent
Ottawa, Feb. 27—The federal government has decided to scrap the Arrow and its big engines, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker announced in the House of Commons today.

At the same time the prime minister made it clear that the government has no intention of force-marching a different air defense system, but will take over the place of the system jet interceptors, among the threat to thousands of employees of the A.E., and see the Famous Engines Co. in the shipyard out of work.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker, making the announcement of the decision of the House of Commons, said the government has no intention of force-marching a system jet interceptors, among the threat to thousands of employees of the A.E., and sees the Famous Engines Co. in the shipyard out of work.

Mr. Diefenbaker said he has received several letters from the company, expressing interest in the Arrow. He said the company has several letters from the government, expressing interest in the Arrow. He said the company has also been looking into the Arrow for some time.

For Full Potential

For full potential, the government has decided to scrap the Arrow. It is in the interest of the company to scrap the Arrow, as well as a number of employees, which it will do immediately. The government has also decided to scrap the Arrow.

ARROWS END MAY SERIOUSLY HURT BUILDS

Special to The Star

The government has decided to scrap the Arrow. This is in the interest of the company, as well as a number of employees, which it will do immediately. The government has also decided to scrap the Arrow.

GIVE ROBERTS GAMBLING DEN NAMES—MACKEY

Metro Police Chief James M. Clark said today he is prepared to go after East End gamblers. He said the police have evidence of gambling in the area.

Mr. Roberts said the police have evidence of gambling in the area. He said it is in the interest of the government to scrap the Arrow. The government has also decided to scrap the Arrow.

Africans Riot FREE PRISONER

The government has decided to scrap the Arrow. This is in the interest of the company, as well as a number of employees, which it will do immediately. The government has also decided to scrap the Arrow.

Down The Drain

The government has decided to scrap the Arrow. This is in the interest of the company, as well as a number of employees, which it will do immediately. The government has also decided to scrap the Arrow.

THE SIEGE ENDS

Coloured youth, Jim Toms, 18, is released by reporter Bill Cooper and an OPP officer to end wild four hours at his farm home.

Watching capture at right is the prisoner. Toms has been in hiding. Both which a OPP officer to end wild four hours at his farm home.
Radar Lines

• Pine Tree line was built first, low tech radar, easy to jam, evade

• So Mid-Canada line was built, to improve distant detection High-tech radar systems
  • Canadian built and run

• **DEW line built and staffed by the USA, deep in Canadian arctic territory, advanced technology**
CAL Warden Ave

- Crown corporation Canadian Arsenals Ltd set up a radio and radar-equipment factory on Warden Ave, Scarborough in the early 1950s
- Building reused as part of Centennial College
Frobisher Bay/Iqaluit NU

• Created as a US Crimson Route air base in WW2
• Re-used as a DEW line radar site and support base in the late 1950s
  • US Air Force built a mile-long paved runway
• HBCo creates a post at nearby Apex
  • An attempt to keep the Inuit off the base
• Old air base becomes downtown Iqaluit
  • Still known as “the base”
Canada and the Inuit

• Southern Canada had very little interest in the Inuit until the 1950s
• Inuit nomadic hunter-gatherers
• Militarization of the Canadian arctic seemed to require the Inuit to be settled
  • Helped assert sovereignty
Canada and the Inuit

• Canada forced the Inuit to settle
  • RCMP shot their sled dogs
• Inuit children sent to school
• Inuit encouraged to make art for a living
Canada and the Inuit

- Canada relocated some Inuit from the southern Arctic (Nunavik) to the High Arctic
  - Resolute on Cornwallis Island
  - Grise Fiord on Ellesmere Island
- Accomplished with some force, trickery
- Transplanted Inuit dumped with few supplies into these harsh places
Human flagpoles

Inuit sent to High
Arctic deserve an apology — and more

By John Amagoalik

Thick white snowflakes were falling.
A cold polar wind was blowing from the
north.

It was gray as far as the eye could see.
There were no man-made structures
anywhere.

Not a living thing could be seen.

My Alaskan Lettie fisher and I huddled
among the dogs

on the forest side of a large beaufort
to seek shelter from the biting wind.

Our parents were busy looking for the
best places
to set up our canvas tents.

A few miles away two canoe runs by
the Canadian and American military
and other civil servants.

They were living in little huts
inflated from Arctic reality.

The comforts they had were beyond our
reach.

Huddling behind the big rock, I began to
think.

What was going to happen to us? I asked
myself.

This was the promised land the
government had talked about.

It was more like living on the moon.

IN THE SPRING OF 1963, members of
the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
were at Inukjuak in Northern Quebec (Nunavik). They had a proposal. They wanted to
return our family, along with some others,
to a new place. A new place they described
in glowing terms. There would be more
animals, they said. We would have more
opportunities for employment. It sounded
like the promised land.

My parents were not persuaded. We
were at home. This is where our parents
and friends are. This is where we belong.

The mountie left. It was not long before
they returned. They were more persistent.

It seemed they would not take no for an
answer. My parents refused again. They
left but soon returned. My parents finally
agreed — under certain conditions.

The family being moved would stay together.

The return trip back to Inukjuak if we decided we
did not like the new place. They agreed to
that too.

The summer moved on.

Our family was picked up by the
Department of Indian Affairs.

We travelled to the High Arctic.

We arrived at Frobisher Bay in the
Canadian Inuit communities in the
Kuujjuaq and Baie-Comeau
area.

As we approached north Baffin Island, it
got colder and colder. The last houses
more and more desolate.

We began to war-

ry.

At Natsilik (Frobisher Island), we were
transferred to the Inukjuk — a village
of about 30 or 40 houses.

We moved from Inukjuak to Nunavik to
adapt to our new home.

As we approached Ellesmere Island, the
mountie informed us that half of us would
be dropped off at Craig Harbour and the
other half would continue on to Resolute
Bay on Cornwallis Island. But they had
promised we would stay together, our
parents argued. Sorry, it has to be
so, the mountie said.

The women started to cry.

The families left Craig Harbour.

The children were left on the rocky, windswept

ARCTIC FLAG: A young boy at Resolute in 1963. Hand-sewn flag was based on magazine photos.

beach and left to fend for themselves.

They later reported hardships and sexual abuse by members of the RCMP. They also
reported being told by the RCMP that they
were not of Inuit culture, In any way, Greenland
inuit who had been coming over to
Ellesmere to hunt polar bears.

Three families from Inukjuak and one
from Natsilik were told to return.

Our arrival at our promised land was
delayed. We could see no living
thing. There was only gray grizzly
and snow so far as the eye could see. What
was to become of us?

A year later, we wanted to return home.
There were no schools, no health facilities,
no teaching posts. We were utterly isolated
from the rest of the world. Our only
avenue of communication with the outside
world was through the RCMP. We missed
our family and friends. The stories of more
animals was a joke. In Northern Quebec,
we had been able to harvest around 50
different animals at Resolute. In Resolute,
that number plummeted down to less
than 10. The environment turned out to be the
most hostile in the world. There was
also the fact that we had been out for three
months in the winter. Temperatures dipped
to minus 50 degrees.

The RCMP said it was not possible to
return to our homeland.

Instead, they persuaded more members of our extended
colony to join us in Resolute. They had been given similar promises.

When they arrived in the summer of 1963, they told us we looked like grief.

***

In the years of hardship since, most of the first generation who moved to the far north returned to Inukjuak but those who were born and there have mostly stayed.

They feel in their head and would not be at home in northern Quebec, fulfilling, in a perverse way, the
government's social engineering goals.

In March of 1996, members of the Inuit people met with the Aboriginal Affairs
Committee of Parliament. They told the all-party committee of the broken promises, the abuses, the hardships, slavery labor, the pain. In June, the committee made three recommendations to Parliament.

1) The government should recognize Inuit contribution to Canadian society
in the High Arctic. 2) They should apologize. 3) They should negotiate a com-
promise package.

The Department of Indian Affairs responded by hiring a consulting firm to make an "independent assessment" of our story and to make recommendations. They were paid $150,000. They did a whitewash and concluded the government had no reason to apologize. The Department fun-

ished these findings and the government's report and said the matter was closed.

Several academics and researchers have studied our story. In one way or another, they have all supported our case. They have concluded the promises were broken. There was abuse and hardship. Sovereignty played a large part in the decisions to relocate.

The government has failed to believe any of them even though the facts have come from their own archives and living and

The latest report comes from Dr. Shigah Gist, a historian from Trent Univer-

versity. Her research has found glaring holes in the consultants' report.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission is now working on the case and is expected to report later this fall. Will the Department listen to its findings too? They probably will. Who knows what lurks in the minds of Inuit Affairs.

Meanwhile, the pain continues.

John Amagoalik is a past president of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.
Grise Fiord
The Price of Grise

- Remote location means that Air travel from Grise Fiord to Ottawa costs $6,000.
- Food and other supplies from outside are also very expensive.
Militarization of the Arctic

• Abruptly transformed the lives of the Inuit
• DEW-line construction brings alcoholism, family breakdown to Inuit communities
1950s Megaprojects

• In the 1950s Canadian Arctic and Canadian North became a focus for various federal megaprojects
• John Diefenbaker’s Roads to resources programme
  • Construction of long-distance trunk highways to the north
• Construction of new towns
  • Inuvik NWT
Dempster Highway
Inuvik NWT
Radar Lines

• Aurora Borealis interfered with arctic radar lines c. 1960
  • Cuban Missile Crisis coincided with autumnal Aurora activity
• By mid 1960s Soviet nuclear treat is from ICBMs
  • For which Pine Tree, Mid-Canada, Avro Arrow are useless
Radar Lines

- DEW line had some value at detecting Soviet ICBMs
- US closed many DEW line sites, supporting airbases, transferred the rest to Canada
  - Leaves the environmental cleanup to Canada
  - DEW sites repurposed as the North Warning System
The 21 major Canadian stops on the old DEW Line, all but one now cleaned up by the Department of National Defence. Three require ongoing maintenance work but cleanup is complete. Another 21 much smaller DEW sites are being cleaned up by the Crown and Aboriginal Affairs.

Source: Department of National Defence/Toronto Star graphic
Arctic Sovereignty Issues

• Remain despite the ending of the Cold War
• Global Warming opens up the North West Passage, previously impracticable
  • Canada regards it as an internal strait
  • US sees it as an international sea route
• But no direct threat to Canada’s sovereignty over its Arctic land area
  • Apart from Hans Island
Iqaluit NU
Arctic Sovereignty Issues

• Competing resource claims of circumpolar nations over Arctic continental shelf
  • Russians try to claim the North Pole seafloor
  • Russians building nuclear-powered icebreakers, establishing arctic bases
  • Canadian rivalry with Denmark over Hans Island
• Sovereignty “threats” used by Harper government to justify funding of Arctic projects
Iqaluit NU
Seldom-used barracks maintained for the Canadian armed forces
Harper Government

• Was planning to replace the two-engine CF18s (which can fly long, Arctic distances) with single-engine CF35s (which can’t).

• Balking at the cost of Arctic naval vessels

• Cutting national parks, science funding generally
  • Which are softer ways of maintaining sovereignty
Harper Government

• Made a big show of finding the Franklin Expedition
  • Your science and Parks Canada budget cuts at work
• Liked to make a image-heavy visit to the North each year