

Canada to Check Hint of Meddling By C.I.A. in '62-63

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OTTAWA, March 1 — Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson agreed today to try to find out whether the Central Intelligence Agency had spent money in Canada during a period in which the Conservative Government lost influence and was finally overthrown by the present Liberal Administration.

Former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, now leader of the official opposition, said he had called for the inquiry on the basis of information that "has just come to my attention."

Making no political inference, he said in Commons, he wanted to know if C.I.A. funds had come into Canada "between May of 1962 and June of 1963."

Mr. Diefenbaker's objective seemed clear to members on both sides of the Commons. The period in question was marked by poor relations between the United States and Canadian Government.

During that time, there were two general elections in which the Conservatives, headed by Mr. Diefenbaker were first reduced to a minority status and then defeated by the Pearson Liberals.

Last week, Mr. Pearson informed the Commons that through a New York foundation the intelligence agency had contributed \$3,000 to the Canadian Union of Students in 1965 and 1966.

Mr. Diefenbaker said he was not now interested in that "extraordinary and completely unjustifiable conduct" by the American intelligence agency.

It was during the 1962-63 period that Ottawa and Washington became divided over the nuclear issue.

Mr. Diefenbaker decided not to accept American atomic warheads for the Bomarc missiles installed in Canada for mutual defense. Mr. Diefenbaker's Cabinet split over the issue and the Minister of Defense among others resigned.

Personal relations between Mr. Diefenbaker and President Kennedy had previously cooled as a result of an exchange of visits by the leaders in Washington and Ottawa.

Mr. Diefenbaker and his cabinet supporters have never made a secret of their belief that the Kennedy Administration did all it could to bring about the Conservative Prime Minister's downfall.