



Frá fundi: Iceland Legation,
Mr. Huges og The Prime Minister.
21. nóvember 1951.

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnmal – Utanríkisráðherra – Utanríkismál – Iceland Legation – Mr Huges –
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HANSARD, 21st November, 1951.

U.S. AIR FORCE
(British Bases).

Mr. Emrys Hughes asked the Prime Minister if he will now take steps to terminate the arrangement by which United States atom bombers are based in this country, in view of the dangers of retaliatory bombing to the people living in the crowded cities of Britain.

The Prime Minister: Certain bases and facilities in the United Kingdom were made available by the late Government to the United States Air Force for the common defence of the United Kingdom and the other countries who are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty. This arrangement will continue so long as it is needed in the general interest of world peace and security.

Mr. Hughes: When this arrangement was entered into, was not the right hon. gentleman highly critical - (Hon. members: "No") - because of the dangers it meant to the civil population of this country? Is the right hon. gentleman prepared to sacrifice the civilian population of this country to American strategy?

The Prime Minister: When this arrangement was made we, then on the Opposition side of the House, supported the Government in the matter and we shared with them, having regard to the difference between Government and

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Opposition, a large measure of responsibility for this extremely important and, I think I characterised it, "formidable" act.