

Furthermore, Canada is a young and growing, if not a great power. We are on the very threshold of stupendous national development, which will be of importance not only to ourselves but to the whole free world. With only 14 millions of people, we have half a continent to manage, and the riches of its soil to exploit for the common good. We are eager to take on all these new tasks, these challenging adventures in the building of this people into a great nation. But now we are forced to devote nearly half our budget to defence instead of to development.

We do this - without complaining - because it is our part of the NATO group insurance premium against war. It is a small price to pay for peace. Moreover, our contribution is, in my view, a fair share of the total premium. We do not need to apologize for our part in the common defence, which is our defence. Nor have our words, I think, except in the occasional peroration where I am as guilty as anyone, outstripped our deeds.

It is not however, easy to share the burden equitably in a costly and complicated international effort of this kind. I suppose that complete fairness in these matters is never possible. But in NATO we are trying to approach this ideal as closely as possible, having regard to all the circumstances, political, economic and psychological.

Our efforts in this regard will not, I think, be assisted by statistical and very often misleading exercises, comparing one country's defence effort with another country's, with a result that looks something like a National Hockey League standing. At the same time, it is obviously essential, if a coalition is to be held together, that each member should not only trust the others, but that each should deserve the others' trust. That cannot be secured except on the basis of an honest and fair contribution by each to the common effort.

Canada's participation in these NATO plans has been worked out in discussions with the other members of the coalition. We have taken certain definite commitments and will carry them out, subject to the changes which will undoubtedly require to be made from time to time. Our contribution takes, of course, many forms. There is one form which is not reflected in our defence expenditures at all; that is the building up of industry and the increased production of strategic materials. Both of these things would be of vital importance in war, and both are being vigorously pushed in this country. Then there are direct contributions of arms and equipment from our productive capacity, under Mutual Aid. This has been useful in the past year to certain European countries.

Finally, there has been our own direct defence build-up. The form that this should take has received, of course, long consideration here and also by the NATO agencies. One feature is the despatch in time of peace of Canadian forces overseas. This has been strongly recommended by NATO and accepted by us. The largest part of this overseas effort will take the form of fighter squadrons stationed in Europe, and this is proceeding according to plan. It is a form of defence for ourselves and assistance to Europe which, I think, will not be criticized in this country; indeed, it meets the specifications of certain of those who are criticizing other parts of our overseas effort.

A Canadian Brigade Group has also been stationed