

(E) WAR DEVELOPMENTS

1. STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER REGARDING THE POSITION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PRESENT WAR, 11TH OF APRIL.

In view of recent public statements, I wish to make clear the position of the Canadian Government on the question of the attitude of the United States in the present war. Canada has voluntarily entered the struggle which her Parliament and people considered vital for the maintenance of democracy and freedom. Our primary task and duty is to make as effective as possible our own direct contribution to the successful outcome of that struggle. The ruthless and treacherous attack which Germany has made this week on two countries, small in population and military resources, but great in their contribution to a progressive civilization and a peaceable way of life, has strengthened Canada's conviction as to the rightness and necessity of the action we have taken and our belief in the inevitable overthrow of the piratical and predatory regime which threatens the liberties of all freedom loving nations. We are convinced that cause has the sympathy of all the free peoples of the world. At the same time we realize it is for every country to decide for itself its policy toward the conflict. The Canadian Government particularly has no thought of attempting to intervene, directly or indirectly, in the affairs or policies of the United States. Any other course would be as harmful as it would be unwarranted, and would show a disregard of the friendly understanding we have for years received from the people and Government of a good neighbour.

2. SUMMARY OF A BROADCAST BY THE HONOURABLE J. L. RALSTON, MINISTER OF FINANCE, OFFICIALLY LAUNCHING THE SALE OF WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AND WAR SAVINGS STAMPS, 26TH MAY

As I speak to you tonight, we are facing the grim tragedy of the unexpected. The Islands of Britain are threatened with invasion. Plans which were made to hold the enemy in front of the impregnable Maginot Line have been shattered in a brief ten days.

But while lines of defence have been broken, the determination to persist and to conquer remains unshaken.

These swiftly moving events have placed upon each and every one of us a new responsibility. On Canada itself they have imposed the duty of rearranging and speeding plans, of sparing nothing—in one great effort to bring to the aid of the Allied cause all the military, all the naval, all the air force strength, and all the industrial and financial assistance which our utmost effort can marshal at this critical time.