

threat to the security of this continent could come and it would be of interest to discuss the form and scale of such possible threats, their place in space and in time; and the means which should be developed by which they could be met.

It is clearly not possible in the limited time available on this occasion to marshal these factors in a closely reasoned account, but I shall endeavour to make a few observations on some of the more important considerations as I view them. I would emphasize that what I have to say represents my personal opinions alone.

The first question on which a conception must be formed is the source of a possible aggression against the frontiers of North America.

Having regard to the potential military and industrial strengths of the countries of the world as they exist today and as they may reasonably be projected some years into the future, it is clear that the only possible source of trouble which could threaten the safety of North America could be some combination of forces in Europe and Asia which had extended its dominance to the oceans to the west, to the east, and to the north. As matters stand, such a consolidation of power in Europe and Asia does not as yet exist, but there is evidence -- convincing evidence -- that such a consolidation is within the thought of those who direct the policy of the Soviet Union as a course of action which might be undertaken when circumstances become propitious.

By this the Soviet authorities might envisage their attainment to the possession of such advantages as the atomic bomb or other weapons of mass destruction; the weakening of the United States or of Great Britain or of France or other of the democratic countries through political disturbances, financial depression, unemployment, or otherwise; or, more probably, the improvement of the Soviet power relative to the rest of the world by reason of quarrels and disputes between nations which would bring turmoil and distraction in vital areas such as the Eastern Mediterranean.

The stated policy of the Government of Canada is to do everything possible through the United Nations or otherwise to settle disputes between nations and to prevent the outbreak of another world war, or failing that, should war come, to ensure that we and our potential allies are in a position to win and win quickly.

It is clear, therefore, that Canadian effort must be directed along both these lines of endeavour. The first is developing international cooperation not only in the realm of security but also for dealing with the vital political and economic questions whose solution will serve to unite instead of dividing the world. The medium which has been established for this purpose is the United Nations and it is through this organization that ways are opening up for peaceful progress in which, we still may hope, will yet transform opposing interests and suspicion into cooperative endeavour and mutual confidence and thus bring about for all nations of the world, a relationship similar to that which exists between Canada and the United States. We of this continent who have been greatly favoured by Providence have a special responsibility to help others less fortunate than ourselves. I have no doubt, therefore, that in the Assembly, the Interim Committee, the Atomic