

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



INFORMATION DIVISION
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No. 50/37 An Address by Mr. L.S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, delivered in Montreal on October 6, 1950, on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Industrial Preparedness Association.

I am very happy that circumstances which have not permitted me to do much personal planning this summer and fall, have permitted me to be here this evening. I want first of all to thank the Canadian Industrial Preparedness Association for the unfailing co-operation its members have extended to the government since it was formed nearly three years ago. But I want to do more than thank you.

It has been cynically said that gratitude is a lively anticipation of future favours. I am sure you do not regard your co-operation in industrial preparedness as a favour to the government. But I think I can promise you that in the next few months the government is apt to be calling upon the Association and upon its members for even closer co-operation than heretofore.

In recent weeks the members of the North Atlantic Alliance have been intensifying the planning and organization of their combined strength for the purpose of deterring aggression and preventing a third World War.

We have all been gratified and encouraged by the proposal of the North Atlantic Council for the establishment of an integrated force on the Continent of Europe. Later this month the Defence Ministers of the North Atlantic Nations are to meet in Washington to work out detailed plans for that force.

What is equally important, a North Atlantic Military Production and Supply Board has been set up. It has the duty of co-ordinating the planning of defence production and procurement for the forces of the North Atlantic Nations.

Now before we can complete intelligent planning for defence production in Canada, international planning has to be sufficiently advanced so that we can determine our appropriate part in joint production for the North Atlantic forces.

That point was emphasized by the Minister of Trade and Commerce last June when he announced that arrangements had been made with your Association under which the services of Major-General Howard were to be available to the government, on a consultative basis, for planning with industry the use which might be made of Canadian industrial facilities. Mr. Howe said, at that