

Rt.Hon. Stanley Baldwin's assumption that Britain would never again have to send great armies to fight in Europe was considered to be a reasonably probable assumption, and from that assumption it was deduced that it was still less likely that Canada would find occasion to send a large expeditionary force abroad.

Canada's immediate task, therefore, was considered to be the development of a defensive system adequate to repel the sporadic raiding attack, to keep our coastal waters open for sea traffic, and in critical times to preserve internal order - always a problem of importance in a country, such as Canada, which has within its borders a large population of alien birth or derivation.

In placing this situation before Parliament in 1937 Mr. Mackenzie stated that, having regard to the international situation as it then existed, it had been decided to adopt certain priorities:

1. Pacific Coast defence was to precede Atlantic defence.
2. In equipping the three services priority was to be given to the Air Force over the Navy, and the Navy over the Militia.

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