

Indeed, I well remember the apprehension with which Mr. Mackenzie King announced, in the darkest days of 1940, the establishment at Ogdensburg of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence.

Mr. King knew this step was in our national interest, but he was concerned about our historic suspicion of American designs.

Today no Canadian fears the designs of the United States on our national integrity; our gravest apprehension about the United States is that the American people may at times act in ways that are detrimental to our national interests, not through lack of good will but through lack of understanding of how our interests will be affected.

The Canadian people do not delude themselves into thinking that Canada, like the United States, is a great power.

We know we are not.

For as far ahead as we can see, the disparity between the United States and Canada, in population and in developed resources, will continue, though the differences will probably grow smaller because we are growing faster than the United States.

Most Canadians are not too concerned about this disparity in national strength.

We have confidence in the continued good neighbourliness of the American people; we believe they are satisfied to let us develop in our own way, as a separate nation.

And that is what all Canadians want.

We are realists.

We know we cannot be really big; but as we look out in the world on the achievements of middle sized nations, like Holland and Belgium, we know that numbers are not essential to the happiness of a nation or to substantial national achievements.

Most Canadians believe that as a united nation of middle rank, we have made for ourselves a unique place in the world, which we are happy to occupy, because we feel our people can have a good life at home, and because we believe our country is contributing constructively to the efforts of men and nations of good will to give peace to the world.