

Mr. Drew: No; this is a case where a great part of the training can be carried out satisfactorily in areas adjacent to the wells themselves. And perhaps I might point out that there are practical reasons why it would not be a bad thing to have a number of fighter squadrons training near those oil fields.

Mr. Cruickshank: Hear, hear.

Mr. Drew: So far as the navy is concerned, it has obviously as its major role its anti-submarine activities, and other activities related to the protection of the Atlantic and Pacific sea routes.

While we have been told that emphasis is being placed upon the development of air forces in the allocation of funds made available for that purpose, we have not yet seen any evidence that our organization has been rationalized to the point where there is a clear concentration on this type of training.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) said in Paris yesterday that conditions are daily becoming more serious. Referring to the hope that the United Nations Organization might be the best organization for preserving peace he said, "The emphasis is shifting from best to last." In those words he made it clear that in his mind hope is diminishing—although it has not disappeared—that the United Nations can be an effective instrument for preserving peace, with Russia remaining as a member of the United Nations. These were his further words:

I for one am not prepared to abandon all hope of negotiations within the U.N. We know, however, that a determining factor must be the attitude of the Soviet union.

Those words are open to no other interpretation than that in the opinion of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and also of course that of the government of Canada, the United Nations can be regarded as an effective place for the preservation of peace, only if Russia changes her course in the meetings there.

It is with that grim and ominous warning before us that we must measure the effectiveness of all that we are doing. Peace is not going to be preserved by statements that we are up to schedule. Schedules may be very loose and uncertain things, as all too often we have discovered in the past. Schedules can be revised from time to time, downward as well as upward, particularly when those schedules are not known to the people of Canada. Neither is peace going to be preserved by telling the people of Canada that we have the best aircraft, the best engines, the best guns and the best bazookas, and so on, until those aircraft, engines, guns, bazookas and other weapons and machines are actually in production.

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Most of the things about which we have been given such glowing descriptions are not yet in production in Canada. In the active and reserve forces of this country, in all branches of military service, we have young men and women second to none anywhere in the world. Their effectiveness, however, in this great effort being made to preserve peace will be measured in terms of the quantity and quality of their weapons and equipment, and the training under service conditions to use those weapons. By that test Canada today, after three years of greatly publicized rearmament, is in a position of tragic weakness.

A good starting point in meeting this problem, and meeting this problem with full knowledge of the facts, would be to fire every one of those propagandists who have been issuing these glowing stories from the Department of National Defence. Remember, we have an effective procedure by which the people of Canada can be told what is being done. When our units have the kind of equipment they should have, when they are doing the kind of training they should be doing under conditions of this kind, when their numbers are adequate for the task with which we are confronted, then let the trained representatives of the press of Canada see those units, see their training and see their equipment, and they will tell the people of Canada the accurate facts, as they have been doing for years when they were given that opportunity. All the action and all the work of that group of men who have been employed strictly for propaganda purposes has been to mislead the people of Canada as to what the facts actually are. What we want to know, what the people of Canada want to know, is this: What is the situation in this grave period, the gravest period Canada has known outside of periods of general war?

A good point also would be to make sure that when the units are equipped, when they are put through their training, and when they are carrying out their demonstrations, no part of that training and no part of their equipment shall be withheld from normal inspection by members of the press of this country—unless it is something obviously of a very secret nature.

Please let no one suggest that the Russians do not know about it. We have made sure that they have every possible facility to know. We not only make the facts generally available to them by means open to the Russian and other embassies associated with them here, but we also make sure that there shall be no limitation, in the ordinary course, to the activities of those spies which are available to them within the communist party of