

of more than one state. As I have already said, we realize that no nation can live unto itself. We realize that the destiny of our country is bound up closely with that of the United States. We are, therefore, fully prepared to consider with you on the basis of our joint responsibilities and our joint interests whatever combined action either one of us may think desirable. This does not commit either one of us to agree to all the plans which the other one may put forward. It does, however, establish the fact that we shall discuss the question of defence freely with one another, and that where joint action commends itself to both of us, we shall be prepared to take it."

With these provisions for the free and intimate discussion of defence matters which are of mutual concern to Canada and to the United States and for their orderly conduct through the medium of our Permanent Joint Board on Defence, no one in either of our countries or in any other country of this hemisphere need fear lest any of the precautions essential to the security of this Continent are being neglected.

Canada, like the United States, is fully aware that its security does not rest on the protection of the territory of this continent alone. We realize that this requires continued association with other peoples of goodwill, who, like ourselves, are devoted to the cause of peace.

In addition to being a nation of the American continent, Canada is also a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations and she holds to that association with all the firm conviction which has marked the course of our history since early times. She holds to that association, not as any dependent colony of a central authority in London, but as a nation in her own right, exercising full sovereign powers, and happy to cooperate in all matters which make for peace and orderly progress in the Commonwealth and in the world.

There are some who may see a difficulty in reconciling our position as a nation on the American continent with our membership in the British Commonwealth, but I do not share this anxiety.

In the first place, I believe that fundamentally the real interests of the member nations of the British Commonwealth are very close to those of the United States -- both and firmly for peace, for individual freedom and for Democracy as the proper form of Government. In the second place, I think we are a practical people ready to deal with each question as it arises on its merits and on the basis of the facts. We see no reason for conflict in interest, and every reason for cooperation between the British Commonwealth and the United States; and you can be quite sure, with our deep concern for the welfare of each of these great associations of people with whom we are so intimately linked, we in Canada will devote ourselves on every occasion to promoting unanimity of view.

The frontiers of North America are the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the North Polar Sea, where Canada finds herself in closest geographical proximity to the great land masses of Europe and Asia. It is only across one or more of these expanses of water, or of ice, that any significant