

## CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

## INFORMATION DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OTTAWA - CANADA

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

OBJECTIVES PEACE AND TRADE: In the following excerpt from his address of January 16 before the Canadian Club of Ottawa, the Prime Minister, Mr. Louis S. St. Laurent, declares the main concerns of the Government to be world peace and the expansion of international trade:

"Canada is not a great power but it is nevertheless a real power in the world, and public men and responsible citizens both have a duty to see that that power is exercised not only for the common advantage of all Canadian citizens of today but with a proper sense of responsibility toward future generations of Canadians. And as I shall try to show in what I am going to say to you today, that also means a proper sense of responsibility toward future generations of mankind.

"I would suggest that the door to our relations with the rest of the world hangs upon two hinges, one hinge called peace, the other called trade.

"If our people are to be happy and prosperous there must be peace in the world and there must be a high and steadily expanding volume of international trade. If, therefore, Canada is to have the position in the world we all want this country to have, the main concern of the Government in the conduct of our external relations must be, for the preservation of world peace and the expansion of international trade.

"If the hinge of peace were to break down

Canadians would be involved in the horrors of atomic war. If the hinge of trade were to become rusted, Canadians would suffer a drastic decline in their standard of living....

"We Canadians know that, in this age of supersonic airplanes and atomic submarines it would be impossible to remain neutral and secure in the event of another world war. Terrible though our losses were in previous wars, a future war would bring casualties and suffering to the civilian population as well as to the armed services that are too horrible even for us to imagine. No price that peaceloving nations are able collectively to pay can be too high to prevent such a disaster. But we do want to be very sure that the insurance policy for which we are paying is the right type of policy.

"I believe the courageous and persistent resistance of the United Nations to aggression in Korea has reduced the prospect of open aggression elsewhere; and I believe the North Atlantic alliance and the build up of strength in Europe have reduced the danger there. But we must keep up the insurance and I am convinced Canadians want to do their share.

"But, if our national welfare depends on peace it also depends on a high level of international trade. Indeed, if our external trade stopped altogether, life in Canada could be maintained only on a relatively primitive basis...."