

which extended the life and the usefulness of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence; and we are working out with other free nations plans for a Joint defence based on self help and mutual aid as part of a combined effort to preserve peace and to restrain aggression.

We know what we want. Some of this work has been done, more is being done and more will be got under way. Our representatives have been in close consultation with the representatives of other nations as to what the role of each would be. Any arrangement such as a North Atlantic Security Pact will be submitted to Parliament for its approval. We are making no commitments without the approval of Parliament. On the other hand we are planning our defences after consultation with others so that what we do will fit into any subsequent plan that may be arrived at after Parliament has given its approval to Atlantic Security.

We all hope that these anxious days will pass. But there will only be peace when the nations agree that their highest aim is not the power of the state but the welfare of the citizen. We all know that the standards of living in Eastern Europe are not to be compared with our own. Let the Communist regimes work at building up the standards of living of their own people there rather than pulling down the standard of living in the West. The main hope of peace is in such a change of policy. Whether or not it will come about I cannot say. It is certainly difficult to be optimistic, but the problem of administering a complex of nations like the Soviet Bloc and the occasional glimpses through the Iron Curtain of the possibilities of a life on North American standards and based on freedom may in time bring about a change.

We want "to let time, not trial of war, be the determining factor".

That is what democracies in search of peace must be working for now - time. And the only way we can gain the time is to be prepared to defend our way of life and to proclaim our willingness to do just that in such unmistakable terms that no one can stumble into war without knowing where each of us will stand.

It is on this account that we are today, within three years of the war, spending ten times as much as we did on the average in the years before the wars. Today we have in the Active and Reserve defence forces of Canada and in civilians in the Department of National Defence a total of 95,000. We are wanting more. We mean to build up our forces to meet our needs as I have described them for the defence of our country and the defence of peace.

Canada wants peace. The defence of peace means today the defence of Canada. Vigilance is the price of freedom.

I have spoken now of the objectives of our policy. Now may I conclude with a word on the work of the United Nations Association.

The United Nations Association must be a powerful agency in the fight for peace.

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