

Put together, these plans are intended to provide for nearly one hundred ships in the navy, manned and equipped, forty regular and auxiliary squadrons in the air force, the equivalent of over a division in the army, and in all three services, administrative and training establishments and equipment and stores which with current production will enable us to meet the shock of mobilization, and all this in addition to furnishing our allies with hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of equipment to strengthen their forces in our common defence.

This is a three-year programme to involve the expenditure during that period of some \$5 billions.

Many times it has been said that war is not inevitable. Neither is peace certain. This large expenditure, almost four times as great as the expenditure voted last year, is felt to be justified as the increased premium to ensure peace. The Canadian government's view is that the chance of maintaining peace will increase as the forces opposed to aggression become stronger. That belief is shared by our eleven allies under the North Atlantic Treaty.

Since Parliament adjourned on September 15, a great deal has happened to affect the international climate. These developments have been dealt with by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. While no one can clearly penetrate the dark curtain of the uncertain future, most people assume that the risk of a general war is greater than it was when we last met five months ago.

Because of that view, all of the North Atlantic Treaty countries have separately and together re-examined the position of their defences.

Canada's defence objectives

While the situation has changed, the objectives of our foreign policy and of our defence programme remain the same.

The object of our foreign policy is to preserve peace and to build up the broad foundations of security which are essential to the prosperity, the welfare and the happiness of our own and other people. In dealing with foreign or defence policy it must never be forgotten that the ultimate object of all our efforts is human welfare. In so far as we can do so consistently with national and international security, we must press forward with everything that will build up the good society here and everywhere else.

The objectives of our national defence are simple and clear. They are: (1) the immediate defence of Canada and North America from direct attack; (2) the implementation of any undertakings made by Canada under the Charter of the United Nations, or under the North Atlantic Treaty or other agreement for collective security; (3) the organization to build up our strength in a total war.

Let us examine each of these in turn.