

security and welfare of our peoples..... The Government..... feel ..... we should broaden and deepen our association with the Latin republics of this hemisphere and that such a process will be of great material advantage to our economic and political development."

It will, I think, be evident from what I have said that one of the important objectives of Canadian foreign policy is to strengthen and extend the bonds of friendship between our own country and other nations of the Western Hemisphere with whom we share so many mutual interests. This objective is constantly being pursued through normal diplomatic channels and by the establishment of sound and healthy economic and commercial relations.

But the hemispheric solidarity we all seek must be forged in realistic awareness of the knowledge that at any time, either through evil design or by miscalculation, the horrors of nuclear warfare may be unleashed upon mankind. Our best hope of preventing that fearful event is to keep the united strength of the free world so overwhelmingly powerful that no nation will dare risk the chance of retaliatory destruction which an attack against us would instantly bring. Thus, the only real defence of the Americas that can maintain the solidarity of which I have spoken, is an effective system of world security.

To this end, Canada is pursuing a two-fold policy:

- (1) We are contributing to the extent of our resources to the massive system of collective security which the free world is building in NATO;
- (2) In co-operation with the United States we are developing effective measures for continental defence.

Because of Canada's geographic location and its vast area, our defence preparations are of vital importance and concern to the United States and to the entire Western Hemisphere. The tradition of co-operation between the United States and Canada in matters of defence was established in the dark days of 1940 by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King, when they met at Ogdensburg, New York, and agreed to set up a Permanent Joint Board on Defence. It is a tribute to the imagination and insight of these leaders of our respective countries that, fifteen years ago, they should have visualized this arrangement not merely as a temporary expedient but as a "permanent" instrument of co-operation, as its name implies.

From the beginning, the Permanent Joint Board on Defence has acted vigorously in recommending to the two governments joint projects which are of interest and importance to the defence of the Americas. The Alaska Highway and the Northwest Staging route were major wartime projects requiring much consideration by the Board as was the chain of airfields built in northwestern Canada to take care of the heavy wartime