

Statement to Press by Honourable Ian Mackenzie,  
Minister of National Defence, issued at Victoria,  
B.C., October 7, 1936.

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Many times during the past few weeks demands have been made for a statement about Canada's defence Policy. Because of the international implications involved any such statement can be made only with careful consideration.

However, the question of national defence is now receiving wide attention throughout the country. In recent months Canada has become defence conscious. That is all to the good. As the Minister charged with responsibility in this matter I welcome discussion.

It was my intention to refrain from further comment on this matter until in the natural course of events I present the Government's policy to Parliament. However, in the current discussion I have observed a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding. There has been a tendency also in certain quarters to try to make a partisan political issue of the grave problem of Canada's defence. This is deplorable, and I am sure that the good sense of the Canadian people will give such tendencies a speedy check.

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