No. 53/48   FIVE YEARS OF CIVIL DEFENCE

An address by the Minister of National Health
and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, delivered to
the Windsor Lions Club, November 25, 1953.

Civil Defence Progress Report

I should like to take advantage of this occasion
to make a progress report to the people of Canada on this
country's rapidly developing civil defence programme. It
it now more than a year since I have given a national
review of what has been accomplished by all levels of
government and by the many voluntary groups and other
interested agencies who are participating in our civil
defence preparations. Since that time, encouraging progress,
on the whole, has been made in bringing Canada's total
civil defence programme to a more adequate and more
realistic level.

Perhaps the best evidence of the determination
of Canadians to do something about civil defence is the
fact that, in no less than 558 Canadian communities, civil
defence organizations are now in existence. More than 100
communities, of which Windsor is an outstanding example, are
organized and trained by services. The remainder are in
various intermediate stages of organization.

To man these local organizations, more than
133,000 people have been enrolled for various civil
defence duties. It is hoped that this total -- which
includes both civil government employees and citizen
volunteers -- will be very substantially increased over
the next twelve months.

I mention the extent of local organization across
the country as a gauge by which to measure progress because,
in civil defence, local effort and local initiative are all
important. Most local authorities have tackled the problem
vigorously and realistically, but there is no question that
more could still be done. I would be derelict in my duty
if I did not report that, in some parts of Canada, the
attention being given to the protection of our civilian
population falls short of what I conceive to be our
collective responsibility in the light of present world
unrest.