

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie on February 15, 1937, introduced to the Canadian Parliament the largest peace-time defence appropriations in the country's history and explained the principles on which these funds were to be expended.

It was accepted in principle that no attack from the United States was to be anticipated and that no change need be made in the historic policy of the undefended frontier to the south.

It was accepted as axiomatic also that Canada was not likely to become engaged single-handed in war against any major overseas power. In other words, in any war in which Canada became involved she would be in association with friendly powers whose fleets would contain the major enemy fleets. Large scale direct attack or invasion was not considered, therefore, to be one of the risks against which Canada by her own resources must provide.

It was conceded, however, that Canada's shipping, her seaports and terminals - vital bases of supply for our allies - would be worth while objects of sporadic raids and quick destructive attacks by enemy sea and aircraft able to escape blockade.

.....

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 159, pages C113389-C114137)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA