

thought, in consequence, it would be a mistake if we tried to press ahead with this matter at this moment.

Canada, Mr. Pearson went on, is planning to establish very shortly a Mission to represent Canada at Bonn, Germany, and the official now at the head of the Military Mission in Berlin would be appointed for that purpose. Answering another matter which had arisen in discussions, he said it was impossible to know exactly what Canada's military commitments would be under the Atlantic Pact until these matters had been worked out.

He said in respect of the Soviet Union:

"This afternoon the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) said that the best hope for that solution was by somehow getting to the people of the communist countries. If we could pierce the iron curtain and get to the hearts and souls of the people behind it I am sure, just as he was sure, that we would find they are as peace-loving as the rest of us. If we could sweep away that mistrust and hatred that has been caused by the tyrannical masters of the Russian communist people, if we could sweep that away and get our own message across to those people, then that split would be healed and we would have a world organization which would be universal indeed; which would do the job it was meant to do at San Francisco, and which some day it will do...."

RESCUE OF 18 U.S. AIRMEN: A message of appreciation for the part played by ships of the Royal Canadian Navy in the rescue of 18 survivors of a crashed B-29 in the Atlantic last Saturday, has been received by Vice-Admiral H.T.W. Grant, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.C.N., Chief of the Naval Staff, from General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, the Royal Canadian Navy announced on November 23.

Three R.C.N. ships, the carrier "Magnificent," destroyer "Haida" and frigate "Swansea" took part in the search for the airmen, whose plane went down Wednesday, November 16, while en route to Bermuda. On Saturday a U.S. Air Force bomber led the "Haida" to where the 18 survivors huddled in a wave-tossed canvas boat. The destroyer picked the men up and took them to Bermuda.

Text of General Vandenberg's message:

"On behalf of the United States Air Force, I wish to express appreciation to the personnel of the Royal Canadian Navy for their assistance in the search resulting in the rescue of 18 airmen from the Atlantic ocean on November 18. We are especially grateful for the work of the men of the "Haida" and "Magnificent" who accomplished the rescue despite heavy seas and consequent difficult conditions.

"This immediate and unselfish action is typical of the friendly co-operation which characterizes the relationships between the people of Canada and the United States."

In the House of Commons, on November 21, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Drew, referred to the rescue as follows:

Mr. Claxton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure hon. members would wish me to refer here to the successful rescue of eighteen men of the United States Air Force by the Canadian destroyer "Haida". This was the culmination of a search and rescue operation by United States and Canadian forces working together. The job done by "Haida" and her crew was in line with the splendid record of that fine ship.

I am sure all hon. members will wish to echo the message I sent to the Commanding Officer: "Well done, "Haida"; heartiest congratulations."

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I am sure every hon. member would wish the congratulations of the House as a whole to accompany and to support the message sent by the Minister on this occasion.

This is one of the most remarkable examples that can be recalled of a combination of different services of different countries in rescue operations. Not only were there Canadian and United States units in the area, but there was a British unit as well; therefore the units of three services were taking some part in these rescue operations....

It is to be noted that the aircraft was down in an unknown area, and could not have been seen from a ship, except probably by chance. Air and naval forces combined in a heroic manner, but the ultimate heroism undoubtedly was that of the men in the small whalers from the "Haida", and later from the "Magnificent", who took a gallant part in making the rescue and transferring medical personnel....

55,000 NEW DWELLING UNITS: Close to 12,000 more dwelling units were built in Canada during the first eight months this year than in the corresponding period of 1948, an estimated total of 55,435 being completed as compared with 43,571. Starts were down to 57,827 from 60,465 a year ago.

Completions in August were up to 9,109 from 6,970 in the same month last year, while the starts were down to 8,542 from 11,013. At the end of the month there were 58,677 dwelling units under construction as compared with 59,732 on the same date last year.

LABOUR INCOME HIGHER: Canadian labour income showed a further rise in August, reaching the highest monthly figure since September last year when retroactive wage payments to railway employees had swelled the total. Estimate for August is placed at \$68,000,000, up \$9,000,000 over July, and \$44,000,000 over August a year ago. The September 1948 total was \$663,000,000.