

mobile, far reaching, long enduring, and as matters stand, decisive in their power against any aggressor.

It is clear that if we are ever attacked, it is on "quality" forces and on "quality" weapons and equipment that we should place reliance. It is important that this be well-remembered down the years and particularly by those who have to do with the planning and conduct of industrial mobilization.

I think that in the period between World War I and World War II, both in Canada and in the United States, we learned the bitter lesson that unilateral disarmament is a delusion - a very expensive delusion that brought us very near to disaster and that cost us very dear in the lives of our young people. Just such a bitter delusion would be the surrender of any of the special weapons of great power, with which I include those based on atomic energy, until we have acceptable assurance through mutually-applicable safeguards and an effective international system of inspection and control which carries our confidence that they, or their like, will not be used against us.

On the contrary, as the situation stands, it is of the first importance that we give our closest attention and maximum effort to extending the margin of superiority which we now possess in these special weapons and in facilities for their manufacture and in ensuring that we shall be able to use them effectively should the occasion require.

In these matters, the advantage of safeguards now possessed by the people of North America and indeed by the whole of the free world is not something which we could retain if we ceased to progress; if we allowed our high capacity for invention and our industrial efficiencies to decline, then most certainly we would soon be overtaken and surpassed. The best protection for the countries of North America and Western Europe, as well as for the rest of the world, would be an effective universal organization of security under the United Nations but, until this can be brought about, the continued production and further improvement of all our weapons and the maintenance of industrial efficiency and preparedness are vital to the prevention of aggression by making impossible any prospect of its success.

I conclude these remarks on "North American Security" by saying that, until we secure the effective disarmament which we seek, and until the aspirations of all nations can be harmonized by peaceful means, we will continue to need our armed forces and all the resources which our industry can provide both as a deterrent to attack against ourselves and as an assurance to the nations of Western Europe and to all other peace-loving nations, who think with us, that the peoples of North America remain strong and well able to help them.

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