



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**HOPES FOR PEACE:** "We are always prepared to meet the leaders of other peoples, to negotiate with them, to settle differences by peaceful means and to appeal to all men of good will to preserve this peace which we all desire for our own good and for the good of mankind," said the Prime Minister, Mr. L. S. St. Laurent, on May 16, at the official opening of the Veterans' Hospital at Ste. Foy, Quebec.

He spoke as follows on the international situation:

"During my world tour I had the opportunity of seeing in many places the destruction and suffering caused by war: both the recent destruction caused by a war which is barely ended and the destruction and distress which are still apparent after almost ten years of reconstruction.

"It is difficult for a peace-loving man, conscious of his own rights and those of his fellow-men, to understand how national leaders who are supposed to strive for the well-being of their own people can bring themselves to launch a war which is liable to cause such destruction and suffering, not only to the peoples whom they attack but also to their own citizens.

"It is also difficult to understand the attitude of those who, by their acts of injustice and their despotism run the risk of bringing on a new world war, when the heavy losses and effects of defeat which the insti-

gators of the last two world wars have brought upon themselves are still apparent.

"It is even more difficult to understand how leaders, who are aware of the devastating power of modern weapons, can constantly create new incidents liable to cause a conflict which would annihilate what generations have taken centuries to build.

"The good will we have offered and the honest and sincere efforts which we put forth to ensure the maintenance of universal peace after the last two wars have become insufficient in themselves.

"Therefore, in order to avoid another war, we have felt that the only alternative to the loss of our rights and freedom by capitulating before potential aggressors, was to adopt a defence policy which required the 14 members of North Atlantic Alliance to make preparations which would deter aggressors from attacking any of our countries without exposing themselves to total defeat, or at least to losses of such magnitude that there could be no victory for either side."

"Our people, like those of other free countries who want to preserve their independence and freedom, have accepted the sacrifices which are necessary to bring about such protection."

"Our financial sacrifices have been heavy, but I think that the speed, firmness and determination with which we took our stand have already borne fruit. I believe that the courageous attitude of a world free, united, and