

Among other things, this means that our continent, which is one great sector of the NATO area, must be treated as a single zone for defence, and that Canada and the United States must co-operate closely in that zone for their common protection. It means also that Canadians have no more right to be cool and suspicious when that co-operation brings American soldiers or American installations to Canada, than would be the case when it brings Canadians to France or Germany.

In other days, and under other conditions, we would have assumed complete responsibility for the building, manning, operating and maintenance of every defence facility in Canada. But now that defence installations on our territory protect both countries, the cost and the responsibility is shared by both governments. This is the right and proper course, especially in view of the magnitude of the requirements for continental defence. In the circumstances, the policy we have adopted is, I think the right one. There is full consultation with the United States on all aspects of collective defence, especially continental defence. It is accepted without question that no non-Canadian activity on Canadian soil in connection with such defence shall take place without the agreement of the Canadian Government. Before giving such agreement, we must be convinced that the activity in question is necessary.

Canada accepts responsibility for as much of this continental defence work on Canadian soil as it can undertake, having regard to our other defence commitments. That which we cannot do ourselves - and which we agree should be done in the common interest - is either a joint effort or is done by the United States alone. Furthermore, in every defence arrangement that we have made with our neighbour, and which involves American activity on Canadian soil - this is very important - Canadian rights and Canadian sovereignty are fully preserved.

Surely we should welcome whole-heartedly, as something in our own as well as the general interest, United States defence co-operation on such a basis. This being the case, it is no service to good relations and friendship between our countries, or to peace and security generally, to whisper or insinuate that every time the Stars and Stripes flies with the Canadian flag at some Arctic base, this is a further step in the United States conquest of our country. "Canada, we stand on guard for thee", is something to act on - as well as to sing about. But it doesn't mean that we have to declare war when an American soldier stands guard over his crashed plane on Canadian soil!