

recognize her great preponderance of responsibilities and her tremendous exertion as the leader of the western democratic powers in a struggle against forces which if they prevailed, would end the Canadian as well as the American free way of life. The United States, on its part, must I think recognize that we wish to play our own part in international development, make our own contribution, and that we can do this effectively as a co-operating partner but not as a camp follower.

I mention these principles, Mr. Speaker, not because they are being ignored but because if we did not keep them in mind they might be ignored. One example of a difficult Canadian-United States question which can only be solved in a co-operative way is the St. Lawrence seaway and power project. It has been made abundantly clear that the two countries are able through their joint efforts to undertake this vast international project on their common frontier. Because of recent work the project itself will be enabled to get under way quickly as soon as the necessary legislative approval has been secured. I am sure all of us hope that the Congress in Washington will be in a position to deal with it shortly. Viewed against the background of the present international situation, the St. Lawrence seaway and power project assumes increasing importance. It would have great defensive, strategic implications and would simplify the logistical problem of supplying Europe with arms and food. By removing any doubts anyone might still have as to the economic feasibility of the Labrador iron ore development, the seaway project would ensure the peaceful development of a dependable source of iron ore, capable of rapid expansion in time of war or emergency. It would thus fulfil one of the main requirements of continental defence. That is why I venture to express the hope that the necessary legislative and congressional action on this matter can be taken without much further delay.

Another example of United States-Canadian relations is the record of the International Joint Commission which continues its long-established record of dealing successfully with boundary water questions. There is no doubt that all the projects which the joint commission is now considering, and it is considering several, when carried out will add greatly to our economic strength.

Among the bilateral air agreements, Canada signed last year was one with the United States which gave us a number of rights which we have been seeking for some time. In return--and this seems at times to be forgotten by some of our friends below the border--Canada granted such reciprocal concessions as full traffic rights at Gander airport in Newfoundland, an important international stage post taken over by Canada, along with other aviation facilities, when Newfoundland and Canada became one. The grant to Canada of one of the new routes, the route between Montreal and New York, was delayed by certain legal proceedings in the United States. It is because of these unresolved difficulties that we have not granted permanent licences to United States carriers to exercise certain traffic rights in Newfoundland but have issued only temporary permits. It will be appreciated of course that temporary arrangements of this nature cannot be continued indefinitely. The United States government has been co-operating to the best of its ability to help bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion, and we hope and expect that the treaty may shortly become fully effective on both sides.

I want to turn now for a moment to another specific problem in our relations with the United States. Negotiations with the government of that country have been in progress for some time regarding the rights and privileges presently enjoyed by United States forces in Newfoundland, a matter which has attracted considerable amount of public attention in this country. The Canadian government does not of course for one moment challenge the rights established with respect to areas in Newfoundland leased to the United States under the bases agreement of 1941, but it considers that they should be brought more closely into line with the principles enunciated by Mr. King and President Truman in their joint declaration of February 12, 1947. This calls for co-operative arrangements to be made, and I quote from it, "without impairment of the control of either country over all activities in its territory". I need not say any more on this subject at this time. I am confident that a way will shortly be found to reconcile United States treaty rights, and strategic requirements which we