

Heavily gunned submarines with tremendous cruising range can cross the sea, fight and return. Aircraft with a cruising range of almost half the circumference of the earth can fly across the Atlantic, drop bombs and return without a stop.

Consideration of these and similar facts led the government to recognize that after more than a century of immunity Canada was again vulnerable to direct attack from overseas. It had become necessary for Canada to develop a system of defence for her own shores, her own ports and terminals, her great industrial centres.

This was a task that required more than a militia.

Realizing that the whole principles of Canadian defence must be revolutionized the government set up a defence committee of the cabinet, presided over by the Prime Minister. The scale and extent of possible attack was studied on the best staff advice. Experts from the British services were consulted on technical problems. And in 1937 a definite defence policy and programme for Canada were laid down.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 159, pages C113389-C114137)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA