



CANADA

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CANADA-U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

On April 22, the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group, composed of 24 members of the Parliament of Canada and 24 members of the Congress of the United States, concluded two days of discussion on matters of common interest in the two countries.

The Group continued its procedures of having informal, off-the-record discussions and refrained from making recommendations, leaving it to each national delegation to make such reports and recommendations to its respective authorizing institutions as it saw fit.

The Group met in plenary sessions on the morning of April 21 and the afternoon of April 22, and held two sets of committee meetings on the afternoon of April 21 and the morning of April 22. Committees discussed the following subject areas: 1) Defence co-operation and disarmament; 2) boundary problems; 3) economic problems of common concern.

DEFENCE POLICY

The Committee on Defence discussed certain aspects of defence policy and the use of North American productive facilities for defence purposes, which had implications of mutual importance to the United States and Canada. The Committee also discussed the prospects for disarmament and the need for planning that would facilitate an orderly transition from military production to production for peaceful purposes, including public works.

There was general agreement that, while seeking with all vigor for an understanding with the Communist bloc based on mutual trust and confidence, the West should maintain adequate defences until the Soviet camp should accept an inspection and control system of sufficient scope and efficiency to justify the commencement of active measures of disarmament.

The Committee considered the changing character of the threat to North America and the effect of this on the operations of the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD). It was recognized that, in addition to the military problems which would have to be faced during the next few years, the adoption of new weapons systems and conceptions of defence would cause local economic re-adjustments, which in some areas might be severe.

The Committee noted that, during the past year, there had been considerable progress in the programme of defence production sharing between the United States and Canada. This was reflected in the fact that Canadian industry in 1959 received United States defence contracts valued at \$96.3 million; it was noted, however, that Canadian defence equipment purchases in the United States in the same period had amounted to \$116.6 million. The Canadian members of the Committee expressed the view that the progress achieved to date was in no small measure due to the consideration given to the problems by the Interparliamentary Group at its meeting in June 1959.