

We have seen that process at work in Eastern Europe and in Asia. At the moment there is not the slightest likelihood of anything like that happening in Canada. Happily, we have in this country only a tiny minority of communists and their fellow-travellers and we have an enlightened population which is becoming increasingly aware of how the communists work. We must however be on our guard, both to prevent sabotage by the actual communists, and to create and maintain conditions in which communism is not likely to breed and spread. So long as we can combine a high standard of living and welfare for our people, there will be no effective scope for communist propaganda.

But we have to realize that the maintenance of high standards of living and increased welfare is an objective which competes directly with demands for ever-increasing defence activity. This is what is now becoming for our generation the old question of guns or butter. Of course it is not really as stark as that in a country like Canada, and at this stage when we are not actually at war, we must provide as much as we can of both, though it is obvious that some of our personal wants will have to go unsatisfied for the time being if we are to do our part in the joint effort to build up in the free world the strength required to deter aggression. In building up that strength we must never lose sight of the fact that its primary purpose is to prevent war and that the prevention of war may require many years of sustained effort. In some ways that sustained effort, though it will be a great deal less than the total effort we would not hesitate to make in an actual war, will be more difficult to sustain precisely because we cannot expect it to be supported by the same degree of readiness for sacrifice which an actual war evokes. What is more, in seeking to maintain as high a general standard of living as is compatible with building up our share of the combined strength of the free nations, we cannot resort to many of those devices which can be used for the total mobilization of actual warfare.

In this shadow-land between war and peace we cannot afford to expend our reserves. It would certainly not be wise, even if it were possible, to invoke the War Measures Act, to place our economy and the whole life of the nation on a complete war footing when, in fact, we are not at war.

In relation to the population and resources of our country, our defence obligations are not small; indeed they are likely to be as great as those of any country of comparable population, except those in the most immediately exposed positions.

We, too, have an increased demand merely for the defence of our own national territory. Fortunately we are well placed in the world. Our military advisers think that an offensive against Canada by large numbers of troops is not a feasible operation in present circumstances. Nevertheless nuisance raids by paratroopers and the possibility of bombing attacks are much greater than they were in the last two wars and hence we must devote a proportionately larger amount of our resources than we have done in the past to dealing with these hazards.

Then we have our obligation under the United Nations Charter and the Atlantic Treaty.