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STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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DEFENCE OF NORTH AMERICA

Address by General A.G.L. McNaughton, Permanent Delegate of Canada to the United Nations, to the Council of Foreign Relations, New York, April 12, 1948.

I appreciate very much indeed the opportunity which you have given me to speak to you this afternoon and to express my views on "The Defence of North America".

This is an immense subject with consequences in every aspect of the life of the peoples both of this continent and also of our neighbours in this hemisphere; and these consequences extend overseas to the nations and peoples of Europe and Asia who may be friendly or opposed, as the case may be.

I cannot, of course, cover more than a fraction of this vast subject and I have therefore thought it would be most useful if I should confine my remarks generally to the particular aspect of this problem which relates to the associations between Canada and the United States and the arrangements which we have set up to bring our common defence problems into focus and to plan and develop the measures which we should undertake for the protection and preservation of our joint interests.

I can say without compromise of security that these plans are well advanced and that agreed measures of implementation are in hand. Further than this in relation to specific information, I cannot, of course, go, and I am sure that everyone here will realize that in the present critical state of the world these are matters which must remain in the most confidential category in the keeping of the military staffs directly concerned.

However, in any event, I believe that it will be both more interesting and more profitable to use our limited time on the more fundamental aspects of the problem because it is clear from experience that in military cooperation between our countries our difficulties are rarely in implementation but more often in the realm of overcoming historical and political inhibitions and in developing what at first sight are seemingly the simplest elements of a basis for agreement as to what is to be done.

The very fact that the title to an address given by a Canadian to an audience comprised of citizens of the United States can appropriately include the collective term "Defence of North America" is significant, for it gives expression to the very remarkable position which we have reached in the development of close and friendly relations between the nations of the North American continent and more particularly in the relations which we now enjoy between Canada and the United States. The words betoken the fact that today within