

to be constructed to enable trucks to connect with lighters which take the cargo ashore. A flexible pipe line for fuel oil and gasoline has to be run out a mile or two in the sea. And then the unloading of the supplies takes place in a sea almost covered with floating ice. The following spring - nine months later - the air force transports the supplies to the weather station hundreds of miles distant. To do this takes at least 30 round trips of a North Star between base and weather station - all this to keep nine men alive and functioning.

I am pointing this out to you in order to bring home to you some idea of the amount of support that is necessary to carry out even minor operations in the Arctic regions. I think you will realize, too, the practical impossibility of carrying out some of the "Buck Rogers" schemes propounded by highly imaginative writers who would criss-cross early warning lines over the North Pole and beyond.

Northern defence is colossal in scope, difficult of accomplishment, tremendously costly in execution. It bristles with problems and difficulties. It cannot, I suppose, be made perfect. For one thing, the cost would be insupportable. But we can make our defences as nearly fool proof and complete as possible, and we intend to do so. Both Canada and the United States recognize the urgency of that. As President Eisenhower put it when in Ottawa last fall:

"Canada and the United States are equal partners and neither dares waste time. There is a time to be alert and a time to rest. These days demand ceaseless vigilance. We must be ready and prepared. The threat is present."

And if "the threat" may seem in these last few months to have diminished slightly in urgency, it has vastly increased in capacity for destruction with the knowledge that our only possible attacker possesses the secret of the hydrogen bomb. We have learned to our dismay in recent days something of the potential power of the hydrogen bomb and there is no solace in that knowledge. The fact that we also possess the hydrogen bomb gives us confidence but the fact that it exists at all sits heavily upon the world.

And so Canada must continue with energy and vigilance working in conjunction with the United States to maintain and to strengthen the defences of North America. Only thus will be ensured our chances of survival. As President Eisenhower has said:

"You of Canada and we of the United States can and will devise ways to protect our North America from any surprise attack by air. And we shall achieve the defence of our continent without whittling our pledges to Western Europe or forgetting our friends in the Pacific."

Because we must remember that the defence of North America cannot be considered apart from the defence of Western Europe. The continent of Europe is still of primary concern to the continent of North America. That is one reason why Canada and the United States have joined in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and that