

The quota which Canada has undertaken to maintain is modest having regard to our resources and to our direct interest in the maintaining and safeguarding of the peace of the world.

Immediately following the cessation of hostilities in Northwest Europe, progressive reduction in the numbers of our soldiers and airmen overseas will commence. This will proceed at the maximum rate which is possible with available shipping. The world supply of ships is very limited and these have to be shared to meet the needs of all. It is therefore to be expected that some time must elapse before our forces can be reduced to the small continuing quota required in the Allied Forces for the occupation of Germany.

As honourable members of the House are aware, the Canadian Navy has been deployed primarily to assist in the maintenance of the security of the shipping routes in the North Atlantic as stated last night by the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services. These requirements will continue for some time after the cessation of the war with Germany and are a first charge on our capacity.

It has been the policy of the Allies up to the present to concentrate against Germany all the Forces which could be employed there. As matters have worked out, the United States with forces which they have had available have