



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN DEFENCE

Address by Dr. A.H. Zimmerman, Chairman,  
Defence Research Board, to the Canadian  
Aeronautical Institute, Toronto, May 26,  
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It is a great pleasure for me to be here tonight and to have this opportunity of speaking to you.

Tonight I speak to you as an engineer, with some experience in both industry and government. In my present capacity my days are spent largely with scientists, and of course the defence research program for which I am responsible is primarily related to fundamental and applied science rather than to engineering development.

My general theme tonight is "The Role of Science in Defence", with special emphasis on its application to aeronautical engineering. I think we might all agree that the technological advances of the 20th Century have far outstripped all of those made in all past history. In the early stages of man's history, his chief preoccupation was to procure sufficient food, shelter and clothing for survival. For these essentials to life, he depended almost wholly on his own physical strength and ingenuity for success. In the sophisticated civilization in which we now live we are still faced with the problem of survival, primarily because man has now mastered such enormous powers of destruction as to make no place on earth safe from attack.

The wheel seems to have gone full circle, with vast technological changes but with little if any progress towards a solution of the original problem -- that of ultimate survival.

The outpouring of new knowledge, in all fields of science, is now such that no one man, or group of men, can hope to understand more than a small fraction of it, and the pace continues to accelerate. As one writer has put it, many people are asking "How long will it last?"; "Will this