

respect. And our ability to find a middle road has proven one of our greatest assets.

In the last ten years our population has increased by nearly one-third and now stands just short of 16,000,000. Of this increase, some one and a quarter million people are new Canadians who, since 1945, have come to this country as immigrants. At least one out of every four of these new Canadians has made his start here in greater Toronto.

The past decade, too, has witnessed the greatest period of industrial expansion, prosperity and general well being in the history of our country. Canada's gross national product has risen from less than twelve billion dollars in 1945 to more than twenty-six billion dollars last year and throughout that period we have consistently been one of the top trading nations of the world.

During two world wars and action in Korea we have demonstrated beyond peradventure that prosperity has not made us soft and that freedom is regarded by all of us as dearer than life itself.

This is a record of which Canadians may indeed be proud, and as we look hopefully forward we think we see Canada ending the twentieth century as one of the world's major powers. But however much we enjoy the progress, the growth and the prosperity which are ours, all this marvellous advance will avail us nothing if it should end in an atomic ashheap.

National defence therefore becomes supremely important to all Canadians -- to every individual -- to you, and to me, and Canada's defence policy must continue to rate top priority in our national consideration as well.

What is our defence policy? On what basis does it rest? Since all-out war, unleashing as it would the full fury of modern thermonuclear weapons, can only result in unimaginable death, destruction and misery, it becomes obvious that our basic policy must be directed to the preventing of such a war starting at all.

It is our duty, therefore, as Canadians to contribute everything we can, within the limits of our ability, toward strengthening the deterrent power of the free world. This has come to be known as the "policy of the deterrent."

To make such a deterrent policy effective means that we, and our allies, must build up such strength as will enable us to retaliate against any attack so swiftly and so surely and with such awful destructive force that no nations will dare to invoke all out war for fear of being itself destroyed. The development of such strength has already, for