

Light Infantry went into action. The balance of the brigade continued its training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and, in response to a request by the Unified Command, was sent to Korea. The entire Canadian brigade participated in the brilliant action which began a few weeks ago and which resulted in such a great victory for the forces of the United Nations.

These are the facts about our participation in the Korean war. Naturally enough, we are proud of the record of the Canadian forces. We think they have played an important and distinguished role. But Canadians do recognize that the brunt of the battle in Korea has fallen upon the American forces. It was the United States which gave leadership to the free nations when leadership was required and which has carried the major responsibility. We salute our American neighbours as brothers-in-arms.

I come then to the second question: What is Canada doing to defend herself and the northern part of North America?

The defence of our immense territory by a population of fourteen million people presents a unique problem. We must depend upon mobility, for even if all our men of military age are pressed into service, we could not hope to defend our sea coasts and our centres of population by any static defence. Therefore, our defence planning in Canada must emphasize air power and sea power; air power to focus the defence on the point of attack wherever it may be, and sea power to protect our coasts and our trade routes. The normal backbone of our active service infantry force is an airborne brigade, highly trained and specially equipped for warfare in the northland, that can be moved with all speed and dropped by parachute, if necessary, wherever an attack may occur. Our static defence includes fortifications for our coastal cities and anti-aircraft protection for our vital points. Our permanent force is backed up by a reserve army organized as a skeleton of six divisions, well-equipped and ready for mobilization on a reasonable notice.

In the event of war, we may expect air attacks from Russia. To meet that possibility our armed services are working in close co-operation with those of the United States. A screen of radar stations is being built, connected by a network of communications and backed by squadrons of fighters, strategically placed. The Canadian and American chains will be linked together to form a single system. One quarter of the system will be in Canada and will be built by Canada. To supplement this air defence, we are modernizing our heavy anti-aircraft guns to protect our vital points against bombing. We must also be prepared for the possibility of airborne troops being landed in North America. As I have stated, we have specially trained airborne troops to meet such an attack.

Our navy is being brought up to a strength of about one hundred ships, including one aircraft carrier, two-cruisers and a considerable number of destroyers and smaller escort vessels. We are building a fleet of well armed high speed escort vessels to cope with the latest edition of the Russian submarine. Our navy is expanding its air support to protect the approaches to our principal harbours.

That, in brief, is our approach to the defence of Canada and North America should an attack be launched directly against our home territory. We are not neglecting these home defences but neither are we relying upon them alone for our safety. Just as we supported without hesitation the police