



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 56/11

DEFENCE AND THE NORTH

An address by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Ralph Campney, to the Empire Club of Toronto, Toronto, April 12, 1956.

The time is long past when any one nation can, by itself, guarantee the peace of the world. But the time now is when one nation might quite easily, by itself, destroy the world. Such has been the development of unprecedented, almost unbelievable powers of destruction within the last few short years.

What we choose to call conventional weapons have been overtaken by atomic possibilities, and atomic possibilities are now themselves quite overshadowed by thermonuclear weapons.

And no one should confuse atomic with thermonuclear weapons. Thermonuclear weapons are as much more devastating than atomic weapons in their effect as atomic weapons are more destructive than conventional weapons. Atomic weapons spell devastation. Thermonuclear weapons mean annihilation.

Our hopes for permanent peace in the face of these dismal and foreboding facts rest more and more on the growing unity and strength of the free nations. This means in effect that it depends largely on the success or otherwise of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO as it is called. It may prove possible for 15 nations working closely and effectively together to accomplish what none of them could hope to achieve singly. It will prove possible if we all give to NATO that continuing, energetic and all-out support which it requires -- which indeed it must have if it is to ultimately relieve us of the continual threat of war.

We Canadians have nearly always shown a good sense of proportion in adjusting ourselves to rapid changes, whatever their nature, in peace as well as in war. The whole amazing record of Canada's achievements and development in recent years affords abundant evidence of our ability in that