

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### CANADA-UNITED STATES ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORTH AMERICAN DEFENCE

Text of an address by General A.G.L. McNaughton to the National Management Council of the U.S.A., at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, on April 7, 1949.

I count it a very great compliment indeed to be invited to be the guest of the National Management Council to-day and to have this opportunity of saying a few words to you on a subject which, most unfortunately, has become of increasing concern to everyone of us. I refer to the problem of North American defence, which is a problem in which Canada and the United States are both very closely involved and in which they are likely to become even more involved in the uneasy days that lie before us.

It is a happy circumstance that our two countries have come to realize the great interests which we hold in common and, because of the experience of two wars, that we have learned the necessity for co-operation in defence. We have learned also that the habit of co-operation is one which grows in intimacy with practice and so to-day as we look out at a deeply troubled world I can say, not only do we understand one another's assessment of the dangers, but our views are in close accord as to how the trends which may menace our way of life are to be met and how the various contingencies should be provided for.

Most fortunately, I think, the leaders of our governments and of public opinion, both in Canada and in the United States, have clearly recognized that an insular military defence, however extensive and elaborate, is by itself not enough to make us safe but that on the contrary to be effective it must be supported in the economic, the social and the cultural spheres and all these endeavours must be amplified by association with like-minded nations elsewhere who believe with us in the fundamental principles of a Christian Democracy and in the freedom of the individual in contradistinction to the pagan tenets of communism which have submerged so many fine peoples under the crushing heel of totalitarian despotism.

Not the least of our endeavours, in our own interest as well as for Christian charity, must be to put an end to this process of engulfment of peoples who are our friends. It is only thus by generous timely help to others in need and in distress and by our own widened endeavours that we can hope to solve the problems of our defence to give us that security we seek.

In the study of military defence it is most important to realize the very remarkable progress which has come about, particularly since the close of World War I, in the application of science and engineering to war. To-day for those who are suitably prepared and equipped, distance has largely lost its former attenuating effect on the conduct of military operations and we must realize not only that continents are now within aircraft range of one another but that with every new development space continues to shrink still further. Thus we have now become closer to Europe, both in terms of the reinforcements we can give to our friends and also in relation to the repercussion on this continent which would be the consequence of any enemy success there. We have become closer to Europe both in terms of the magnitude on which military operations might be conducted and also in the reduction of the time element involved in bringing into engagement the massive forces which would probably be required.