

*Address by President Eisenhower*

for assuring American co-operation in this great project will, I hope, be authorized and approved during the coming session of the congress.

I have noted with satisfaction the New York power authority's acceptance of the federal power commission's licence. With this act the stage is set for a start on the St. Lawrence power project which will add materially to the economic strength of both countries.

My third observation is this: You of Canada and we of the United States can and will devise ways to protect our North America from any surprise attack by air. And we shall achieve the defence of our continent without whittling our pledges to western Europe or forgetting our friends in the Pacific.

The basic threat of communist purpose still exists. Indeed the latest Soviet communication to the western world is truculent, if not arrogant, in tone. In any event our security plans must now take into account Soviet ability to employ atomic attack on North America as well as on countries, friendly to us, lying closer to the borders of the U.S.S.R. Their atomic stockpile will, of course, increase in size, and means of delivery will improve as time goes on.

Each of our two nations seeks a secure home for realization of its destiny. Defence of our soil presents a challenge to both our peoples. It is a common task. Defensively, as well as geographically, we are joined beyond any possibility of separation. This element in our security problem is an accepted guide of service leaders, government officials and legislatures on both sides of the border.

In our approach to the problem, we both realize that purest patriotism demands and promotes effective partnership. Thus we evolve joint agreements on all those measures we must jointly undertake to improve the effectiveness of our defences, but every arrangement rests squarely on the sovereign nature of each of our two peoples.

Canada and the United States are equal partners and neither dares to waste time. There is a time to be alert and a time to rest. These days demand ceaseless vigilance. We must be ready and prepared. The threat is present. The measures of defence have been thoroughly studied by official bodies of both countries. The permanent joint board on defence has worked assiduously and effectively on mutual problems. Now is the time for action on all agreed measures.

Steps to defend our continent are of course but one part of the world-wide security program. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, for example, is an essential defence for Ottawa, for Washington, and for our neighbours to the south, as well as for communities thousands of miles to the eastward. Implicit in the consultations and detailed studies which must continue and in the defences which we have already mounted is the need for world-wide vigilance and strength. But the purpose is defence. We have no other aim.

In common with others of the free world, the United States does not rely on military strength alone to win the peace. Our primary reliance is a unity among us forged of common adherence to moral principles. This reliance binds together in fellowship all those who believe in the spiritual nature of man, as the child of God.

Moreover, our country assuredly claims no monopoly on wisdom. We are willing, nay, anxious, to discuss with friends and with any others all possible paths to peace. We will use every means, from the normal diplomatic exchange to the forum of the United Nations, to further this search. We welcome ideas, expressions of honest difference, new proposals and new interpretations of old ones—anything and everything honestly offered for the advancement of man's oldest aspiration.

There are no insoluble problems. Differences can be resolved; tensions can be relieved. The free world, I deeply believe, holds firmly to this faith, striving earnestly towards what is just and equitable.

My friends, allow me to interpolate here an expression of my own personal faith. I call upon all of you who were in responsible positions, either in civil government or in the military world, in the dark days of 1940, 1941 and 1942. There seemed no place from which to start to conquer the enemy that bid fair to enslave us all. Already he had put most of Europe under his heel. I stop to think of the bewilderment of our people, the fears of our people in those days, and then of how in a few short years we were coming home to celebrate that great victory that we thought could at last mark the end of all wars. We see how fast human outlook can change from one of despondency, almost of despair in many quarters, to one of exultation. Today as we fail to understand the intransigence that we feel marks others, as we try to colour every proposal we make with what we believe to be reason, understanding, even sympathy, as we are non-plussed as to why these offers are never taken up, let us never despair that faith will win through.