

"What I want particularly to emphasize is that we should build up our strength not for the purpose of waging war but for the purpose of preventing war".

To undertake commitments of this nature in peace-time would be as great a departure from the traditional foreign policy of Canada as from the traditional foreign policy of the United States. Tradition is not a safe guide for action in the atomic era. Both our countries have had to fight two great wars within thirty years. In both wars we were given, by geography, an interval of time to build our military strength while others were doing the fighting. This saving interval is not likely to be repeated again. North America, too, is no longer completely immune from direct attack. We should have learned, and I believe a great majority of our people have learned, that aggression on a great scale anywhere is in the long or short run aggression against us. Let us seek to make aggression too dangerous a venture; but if it does come let us be well prepared to keep the aggressor as far from our own continent as we can.

Canada and the United States are, as I have said, interdependent countries. That has been recognized for a long time. What is now being realized acutely is a newer fact: the interdependence of the two sides of the North Atlantic Ocean. It is wise and urgent, therefore, to find means of increasing our joint strength, even when the means run counter to past policies and may arouse ancient prejudices. Can anyone suggest a more effective means than the early ratification of a North Atlantic Pact?

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RP/C