

economic and political fields every effort must continue to be made to prevent any country falling under Russian influence.

I referred earlier to the evolution of defence thinking within NATO. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the present realization that the North American Continent is part of the NATO area and that its defence is of vital importance. There is now common agreement that the protection of the Strategic Air Command and of the vast production facilities both in Canada and the United States is of paramount urgency to NATO.

We, on this continent, long ago realized that there is no such thing as a unilateral defence. This is particularly evident with respect to the possibility of an air attack. In recent years we have jointly constructed an extensive air defence system comprising early warning radar lines backed up by interceptor fighter squadrons.

In Canada, we have accepted the presence of your servicemen at our operational stations and your country has in turn welcomed our personnel from our armed forces for training and other duties.

Minor differences of opinion may arise in our relationship but as long as there is mutual respect of our individual rights, such differences will be overcome. The border between the United States and Canada is undefended but there is a border and we are an independent country, bound it is true by many ties to your country but still capable of individual action and of determining our own policy.

Another step was taken towards increasing the effectiveness of our defence when, last August, a joint statement was issued by your former Secretary of Defense and myself announcing the interim creation of an integrated air defence system, known as NORAD.

I have found that there has been some misunderstanding regarding the function of the North American Air Defence Command.

The joint responsibility of Canada and the United States in the defence of the North American Continent was given further emphasis when studies were initiated in 1955 toward the creation of a more effective air defence system for this region of NATO. These studies later resulted in the recommendation for an integrated operational control of all air defence forces under one joint headquarters. Following the approval of this recommendation in principle by both governments, the integrated headquarters known as NORAD, with a United States Commander and a Canadian Deputy Commander, was formally established at Colorado Springs on August 1 of last year.