It is believed that the Russians are making atomic bombs. If this is so, they may have 25, or they may have more.

They have four-engine aeroplanes of the B-29 type, as developed in 1942, with modifications. These aircraft could bring atomic bombs to any part of North America on a one-way trip.

With refueling in the air or on the ground, they might make a two-way trip.

It is not believed that they have enough bombers to put on saturation raids like those made during the Battle of Britain or, even more, by us on Germany.

In view of this, the number of targets in North America considered important enough to justify the use of aircraft carrying the atomic bomb is relatively small. It has been said in the United States that the number is 30, and in our House it was said that the number of likely targets in Canada may be 7. Neither of these figures is official, but you can see by these figures that the number of vital targets in Canada is not very great. In a general war the enemy would have a lot of things to do.

However, in a general war, we believe that we would be the object of air attack and we must prepare ourselves accordingly.

You see, pilots given targets in the United States would probably be given alternative targets if they could not reach their primary target. It does not make much difference to a bombed city whether it is bombed as a primary or alternative target. After an atomic attack, whether it is one or the other, the question is rather academic.

To defend ourselves against this type of attack, we have worked out with the United States a master plan of radar protection, communications and fighter interceptors. This is being built up as fast as it can be done.

It is obviously impossible to render a continent of 7 million square miles impregnable against air attack. It cannot be done the same way it was in Britain during the Second World War.

Radar works in straight lines. You cannot bend a radar wave. The range of radar is some 150 to 200 miles at an altitude of about 10,000 feet. After an enemy aircraft is detected, it takes about 20 to 30 minutes to communicate with the control centre and get the fighters into the air. This requires highly trained personnel to work radar, communications and fighters as a single team.

We are therefore working with our American friends to build the radar network, the communications system and the fighter strength required.

As the map shows it is almost certain that any attack on the United States would be made through Canada. We work very closely together for our common defence. Every cent we spend on this in Canada helps the United States. It is only reasonable that they should assist in that defence.