

"With no other foreign country are the relations of the United States as close as with Canada. Because of the wide range of common interests between the two countries the areas of possible friction are great. This increases the importance and magnitude of the task of the maintenance of satisfactory relations."

Once again I ask you to compare the few points of contact in 1938 with the multitudinous strands which exist between us in 1958.

It is gratifying to note the interest that has recently been shown on both sides of the International Boundary in the matter of relations between our two countries. Particularly gratifying has been the interest taken by the Legislative Branch of the Government of the United States. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee devoted a special period of consideration to relations between the United States and Canada. In the House of Representatives, Messrs Hays and Coffin, whom we had been delighted to receive as guests earlier in the year, produced a report for their fellow-members of the Economic Sub-Committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee - a report which is compact and bristling with ideas.

Some harsh comments have, I know, been made by certain senators during the course of the Foreign Relations Committee hearings. Nevertheless I welcome these comments and hope that a greater interest will lead to a greater knowledge of our problems because I am convinced that with a greater knowledge some of these comments will be greatly changed, if not reversed.

In particular I rejoice to refer to the forthcoming visit of President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles to Ottawa in early July. This sort of a summit meeting does not depend for its value upon the momentous decisions taken or the high-flown language used in a press communique. We are in constant touch not merely through the diplomatic channels but by direct contact between departments.

One of the most important of our relations has to do with defence. On August 1, 1957, the two governments announced their agreement to the setting up of a system of integrated operational control of the air defence forces of Canada and the United States. In an exchange of notes within the past month, we have recorded formally our understanding of the need for integration of our air defence activities and our agreement on the principles, both military and political, on which the organization and operation of NORAD are based.