

Another recent example which was of particular significance to Canada was a ruling of the Office of Civil and Defence Mobilization that imports of large hydro-electric turbines and other related electrical generating equipment would not endanger the national security. As a consequence of this ruling a Canadian company will share in a very substantial contract for turbines to be installed at the Big Bend Dam on the Missouri River in South Dakota. These are all matters on which we have had direct and friendly discussions with the United States authorities, and the outcome indicates what can be achieved by this means.

Similarly, our defence relationships with the United States continue to be close. These relationships stem from an identity of interest in the fact of the possibility which exists, by reason of technological advances in modern weaponry, of a devastating attack on our two countries. Neither country can defend itself effectively in the face of such a threat without the co-operation of the other. This collective approach to the problem of continental defence is but one segment of a much wider collectivity of effort through the NATO Alliance.

The military planning of joint defence activities and the implementation of specific projects in this field are of primary concern to the Minister of National Defence, who reported fully to the House during last week's defence debate. I shall not, therefore comment on these strictly military aspects of our defence co-operation with the United States. I would, however, like to speak briefly on the other important factors which influence that co-operation. Our identity of interest with the United States in the defence field does not preclude our differences of emphasis on policies designed to serve our common objective. It is for this reason that the Canadian Government insists that we be consulted regularly and fully by the United States Government on a wide range of developments throughout the world which might bring with them the possibility of armed conflict.

In our bilateral dealings on defence matters with the United States the Canadian Government does not hesitate to assert the requirements of Canadian sovereignty. Canadians are convinced, I am certain, that the best physical protection of our sovereignty lies in co-operative continental defence arrangements. Canada must insist, however, that such co-operation shall not jeopardize the political and economic objectives of our own nation.

Relations with Soviet Union

Most of us are inclined to overlook the fact that we have another great neighbouring state, the Soviet Union. As has been mentioned on more than one occasion in this House, Canada has a special interest in its relations with the Soviet Union.