

If our people are to be happy and prosperous there must be peace in the world and there must be a high and steadily expanding volume of international trade. If, therefore, Canada is to have the position in the world we all want this country to have, the main concern of the Government in the conduct of our external relations must be for the preservation of world peace and the expansion of international trade.

If the hinge of peace were to break down Canadians would be involved in the horrors of atomic war. If the hinge of trade were to become rusted, Canadians would suffer a drastic decline in their standard of living.

If we Canadians are to follow sound policies in what we do to help maintain peace and develop trade between nations, then those policies must be carefully thought out in the light of the best knowledge and advice we can get, they must be administered with the highest sense of responsibility and they must enlist the understanding and support of the great majority of Canadians.

We Canadians know that, in this age of supersonic airplanes and atomic submarines, it would be impossible to remain neutral and secure in the event of another world war. Terrible though our losses were in previous wars, a future war would bring casualties and suffering to the civilian population as well as to the armed services that are too horrible even for us to imagine. No price that peace-loving nations are able collectively to pay can be too high to prevent such a disaster. But we do want to be very sure that the insurance policy for which we are paying is the right type of policy.

I believe the courageous and persistent resistance of the United Nations to aggression in Korea has reduced the prospect of open aggression elsewhere; and I believe the North Atlantic alliance and the build up of strength in Europe have reduced the danger there. But we must keep up the insurance and I am convinced Canadians want to do their share.

But, if our national welfare depends on peace it also depends on a high level of international trade. Indeed, if our external trade stopped altogether, life in Canada could be maintained only on a relatively primitive basis.

We have become so accustomed to the buying and selling of goods across political boundaries that many of us are apt to take trade for granted until some difficulty overtakes us. But we all know that if our imports were suddenly suspended we would in a short time notice the effect in our homes. Many of the things which we now consider essential to good health would no longer be available.

You all remember our shortage of American dollars in 1947 and how we missed the fresh vegetables for the few months we had to get along without them at that time. And we can imagine what our hot summers would be like without light cotton clothing, or our cold winters without enough hard coal or fuel oil.