

interest in the strength and security of North America. The other sites, in the Bahamas, the British West Indies and British Guiana, forming an outer ring of defence to the Panama Canal, were leased in exchange for fifty over-age United States destroyers.

The House is aware that six of the fifty destroyers have since been made available to the Royal Canadian Navy and are already in commission. During a recent visit to Halifax, I had an opportunity of visiting some of the destroyers about to be transferred and of seeing how completely they were equipped. I was also privileged to extend to the United States Admiral who brought the destroyers to Canadian waters the thanks of the government and people of Canada. I had previously written to the President to express our appreciation. Honourable Members may be interested in the contents of my letter and the President's reply.