

The main elements in the integrated continental air defence system of North America are three:

First, the Pinetree radar system, covering the industrial heartlands of the United States and Canada. This system provides the Canadian and United States air defence commands with a basic radar warning and control system, and through extensive communication networks it links the Canadian and United States air interceptor forces. The cost of this element of our joint defence system was borne jointly by Canada and the United States. It has been operational since 1954.

Second, the mid-Canada line, situated in Canada north of the settled area, is an early warning line supplementing the Pinetree radar system. It has been built entirely by Canada at a cost of upwards of 200 millions of dollars. It has been a job of real magnitude, fraught with great difficulties and many new problems and accompanied by a capacity to face new tests of hardship and endurance. Its importance in reinforcing the warning system so vital to both countries must, I think, be obvious to you all.

Third, there is the distant early warning line, or the DEW line as it is called, across the most northerly practicable part of North America — the Arctic shore. This has been built at the expense of the United States and its building constitutes one of the epics of transportation and construction of modern times. Here in Seattle, from which huge armadas of ships have sailed northward over the past few years, you are perhaps more familiar than most with the amazing story of the DEW line construction project. The DEW line with its extension down both flanks of the continent to prevent "end runs" by hostile aircraft, constitutes of course the most remote element of the whole warning system.

The three lines which I have mentioned — the Pinetree system, the mid-Canada line and the DEW line with its extensions — when fully operative, will constitute a co-ordinated system interlocked by an elaborate and extensive communications network, the whole designed to alert the continental air defence system, the United States retaliatory force and civil defence organizations as well should a hostile air attack be launched against this continent.

I have indicated only briefly the highlights of this great co-operative Canada-United States defence effort. That effort is really part of a wider program in which both countries are engaged for the preservation of peace — a program based on a dedication to the principle of peace through collective security

Both Canada and the United States have consistently over the years supported the aims of the United Nations.