

Harmonization of defence policies of Canada and the United States has continued steadily and while, as is inevitable in negotiations between two sovereign nations, progress has sometimes been slow, it has been so substantial that Mr. Brooke Claxton, Canada's Minister of National Defence, was able to say as far back as 1951:

"The general staffs of Canada and the United States have completed agreement on doctrine, plans and preparation for the joint defence of North America."

The co-operation between Canada and the United States, in steps looking to our common defence, to which I have referred at some length, has been closer, has existed over a longer period of time, and has achieved greater results than similar efforts between any two other free countries in the history of the world. That is a most significant not-to-be-forgotten fact.

That co-operation had its origin in a common purpose; it has continued in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual respect; it has grown until now it is the central factor in the defence of North America and perhaps in the ultimate defence of freedom in this world.

The joint communique issued by Prime Minister St. Laurent and President Eisenhower during the President's visit to Ottawa on November 14 last year noted in very definite terms that there is now complete agreement on the vital importance of effective methods of joint defence against direct attack on any part of this continent.

The general aim of military and foreign policy in both the United States and Canada is the preservation of world peace, but the primary aim must be, as it is with all nations, to defend ourselves from direct attack. The obvious effective means of attack is by air, and the recently developed concept of global geography has made it clear that the shortest and most direct air routes from prospective enemy bases to North American targets traverse the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions.

The armed forces of both countries are working in close co-operation to meet the possibility of such attack. A network of radar stations equipped with the latest and most powerful apparatus is being built. Our two governments agreed about two and one-half years ago to build a warning system working outward from the great industrial areas of North America, the chief target areas in any attack which might come. Stations which are of primary usefulness in the defence of the United States are manned by the United States Air Force, while installations of special usefulness to Canada are operated by the Royal Canadian Air Force. The radar screen is being linked with air force defenders by an extensive communications system utilizing high frequency and is partly in operation. It will very shortly be fully so.

For some time Chiefs of Staffs of both countries have been investigating the problem of providing still more early warning for the North American continent. Early warning of pending air attack becomes increasingly important day by day as our only potential attacker