



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

October 21, 1959

Vol. 14 No. 42

CONTENTS

Joint Defence	1	Co-op at Cheticamp	4
Seaway Closing Dates	3	Technical Assistance	5
Maritime Manufacturing	3	Visit of Mexican President	6
New Aid to Trade	3	Norwegian Visitor	6

JOINT DEFENCE

The close relationship between Canada and the United States makes it natural that the two countries should collaborate intimately in the defence of North America, Defence Minister George R. Pearkes, V.C., said in Seattle on October 12, 1959.

Mr. Pearkes spoke on Canada-United States mutual defence at the annual convention of the National Defence Transportation Association.

Developing his theme, Mr. Pearkes said in part:

"...We Canadians find ourselves situated between the two most powerful nations on earth, the United States and the Soviet Union.

"The implications of such a geographic location are obvious, but in spite of the difficulties that arise from time to time between Canada and the United States, we have acquired a certain maturity which leads us to believe that our problems can all eventually be worked out. I feel that this maturity which I have mentioned can be attributed in part to our connection with the British Commonwealth of Nations which brings us into intimate contact with countries spread throughout the four corners of the globe.

"Canada and the United States are today closely associated in their efforts to achieve peace through the instrumentality of peaceful negotiations. We cannot accept as inevitable the thought of a world devastated by a nuclear conflict - yet we cannot deny that possibility. We realize this fact and we know that we must maintain sufficient military strength to deter any aggression, while at the same time,

through the medium of diplomacy we must endeavour to establish the necessary foundation for international confidence. May I say that the recent efforts of your President in the pursuit of peace are greatly appreciated by all the free peoples of the world.

"Our two countries have joined together to share in the defence of North America. We are also joined within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We have taken these measures because for the first time in history the nations on the North American continent are exposed to the possibility of a massive attack.

"Canada by herself cannot provide a complete defence in a modern war. The United States of America, strong and powerful as she is, cannot on the North American continent defend herself effectively without Canadian co-operation and without defence facilities on Canadian territory. Our close relationship makes it natural that we should join in an alliance for we have a common heritage of freedom and a common aspiration for peace.

INTIMATE COLLABORATION

"The origin of this intimate collaboration in defence which exists between our two nations at the present time can be traced to the Ogdensburg Declaration which established the Permanent Joint Board on Defence in August 1940. This Board is still an important element in Canadian-United States relations and in the defence organization of the West.

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