

of our own territory and, especially, our coasts. In the war of 1914-1918, the defence of Canada was a secondary matter. The two great powers on the far side of the Pacific, Russia and Japan were allies of Great Britain. Japan assumed the task of naval patrol in the Pacific--the task, in fact, of defending our British Columbian coast. Today, at all times, we must be prepared, in so far as we can, to defend our western coast for ourselves."

Not only did the government recognize, from the outset, the potential menace of Japanese aggression; we recognized, too, that, from the moment that Japan joined the Axis, the danger was greater. Because we recognized this danger we were all the more determined to do whatever could be done to avoid what Hitler clearly desired: the entry of Japan into the war.