

were necessarily on the defensive. For three years, they were gathering their strength, affording such mutual aid, one to the other, as opportunity permitted.

Preparation for prolonged warfare has been accompanied by joint planning of operations on a world scale. Today, the forces of aggression continue to confront the forces of freedom. But their positions are now reversed. The Allied powers are no longer on the defensive. They have taken the offensive in all parts of the world. The widespread attacks by United States and Australian forces in the South West Pacific, the carefully planned and skillfully executed operations of British and United States forces in North Africa, the magnificent achievements of the Russians, and the unrelenting resistance of the Chinese, have combined to change the world scene, and to justify our faith in ultimate victory for the United Nations.

Today, the fighting men of Canada, of all three services, are on active duty in all parts of the world. The strength of the armed forces has been steadily increased. Every effort has been made to keep all formation at the highest levels of training and efficiency. In actual combat, on all oceans, in the skies throughout the world, at Hong Kong and at Dieppe, our fighting men have served with distinction and gallantry. Our armed forces are equipped with the most modern and efficient weapons of war. Weapons,