

Energy Commission, the Security Council, in which we now hold membership, and in other United Nations groups as well, Canada will continue to press these matters with all the insistence which she can muster. On the other hand, in this time of great anxiety we must pay heed to the wise old saying that "the strong man armed keepeth the peace".

The application of this axiom to our present position is that if we and our friends are strong in defence and conscious of our strength, we can go forward without anxiety and do those things which may make war impossible and to carry aid and comfort to those in need; in the opposite case, it may be expected that constructive action will again be paralyzed by timidity and fear or by indifference.

In consequence I would say that a very serious responsibility now lies on all those who have to do with our Armed Forces.

The factors which make for military strength have varied from country to country and from age to age. Some times it has been possession and skill in the use of a particular weapon; some times an advantage in movement or in communications; some times the stimulation of a great leader or a great cause; some times, though not often in history, it has been sheer numbers that have given advantage.

Today the military strength of this continent rests in very special circumstances which exist here on a scale unmatched elsewhere through the world.

Our young people, on whom the future depends, are most highly educated; they have been familiar since their earliest years with mechanism in all its forms and uses; they have shown inventive abilities of the highest order and capabilities in research which are unexcelled; there is facility in organizing to handle the largest enterprise; there is discipline when the occasion requires, and courage in action and capacity to endure adversity have been proved beyond dispute.

Behind these priceless human and moral resources, which are notable characteristics of the people both of the United States and of Canada, North America possesses the most comprehensive mass production industry in the world. We are particularly fortunate that if we have to meet an emergency, we start from the satisfactory position that in the standards, the methods and in the techniques of industry, there is wide interchangeability between us. We have, or can have, ample supplies of most key materials required for peace or for war; and, for any potential shortages, there is capacity to develop acceptable substitutes; capacity, too, of perfecting and rapidly producing the newer and better weapons of war as the occasion may require them for purpose of defence or for the fulfillment of our obligations under the United Nations.

It is not on numbers in the armed forces that we in North America depend for defence against any possible aggression, though these must be sufficient. We depend in fact on more highly skilled and perfectly equipped forces by sea and land and in the air which our special advantages make possible -- hard hitting forces which can be mobile, far reaching, and as matters stand, decisive in their power against any aggressor.