

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## PROBLEMS OF CANADIAN SECURITY

An address delivered by The Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at a luncheon of the Rotary Tri-District Conference in Montreal, April 26, 1948.

I am very glad to be here to-day and to have once again the opportunity of discussing with members of Rotary International some of the problems in which the free citizens of this country and of the United States are equally concerned.

Happily, our relations with each other are so frequent and so constant that there is very little of public interest to any of us that is not of almost equal concern to all the others. That means that there are an almost unlimited number of subjects about which we could have profitable discussions.

This luncheon meeting, however, is not the occasion for a very long speech and I am sure you will wish me to realize as well as you do that most of these mutually interesting problems will have to remain untouched on this occasion.

In my capacity as Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, I find that an increasing amount of my time is devoted to long range problems of diplomacy that concern Canada's national security. Now I am optimistic enough to hope with some confidence that those of my generation on this Continent are not apt to live long enough to see another world war. Most of us do feel that the best way to work for the realization of that hope is to participate in arrangements for collective security, sufficiently impressive to make it unattractive for anyone to attempt or to contemplate aggression against us.

We tried that even before the last war ended by setting up the United Nations Organization under the San Francisco Charter but that organization has not yet demonstrated its ability to give each and every one of us a feeling of all confident security. We all promised to be good but as between Russia and her satellites and ourselves we don't trust each other.

Moreover, that Charter itself contemplates and provides for regional co-operative defence arrangements and the subject I intend for a few moments to-day to discuss in broad outline with you is that of our defence arrangements with the United States and their long range implications for Canada.

You are aware that defence collaboration with the United States is maintained through the agency of our Permanent Joint Board on Defence and you are no doubt familiar with the reasons which led to the setting up of that Board in August 1940. You will remember that Hitler had then succeeded in overrunning a large part of Europe. The United States was at peace but was slowly becoming aware of the threat to her security from Hitler, victorious and triumphant on the Continent of Europe. President Roosevelt, alive to the dangers of the international scene, was doing his best to bring home to his countrymen the gravity of their position. In early August 1940 the Battle of Britain had begun.