

While giving to the needs of the war precedence over all else, my Ministers are resolved that, so far as the future can be foreseen, Canada will be in a position to meet the difficult situations which will have to be faced when victory is won.

As occupied countries are liberated from the enemy, it will be necessary to provide for the relief of destitute populations, and for the rehabilitation of devastated areas in those countries which have borne the brunt of the terror and destruction of war. A measure to extend the principle of mutual aid so as to provide for relief, as well as for materials of war, will be submitted for your approval.

Canada's prosperity and the well-being of her people are bound up with the restoration and expansion of world trade. Export markets are essential to the efficient employment of vast numbers of Canadians. Larger imports are needed to raise the standard of living. In accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter, the arrangements required to clear the channels of trade and promote the flow of goods among all nations after the war are being explored with other countries. Discussions will be advanced as rapidly as the exigencies of war will permit.

The revival of world trade and prosperity after the war will depend upon the speedy recovery of the occupied countries. During the period of transition, the provision of international relief will help to maintain full employment of Canadian manpower and resources.

My Ministers believe that the time has come when all the nations now united in the common purpose of winning the war should seek unitedly to ensure an enduring peace. The dangers of future aggression can be removed, and world security attained, only by a general international organization of peace-loving nations. You will accordingly be invited to approve of Canadian participation in the establishment of an international organization to further national security through international co-operation.

While the post-war objective of our external policy is world security and general prosperity, the post-war objective of our domestic policy is social security and human welfare.

In the opinion of my Ministers plans for the establishment of a national minimum of social security and human welfare should be advanced as rapidly as possible. Such a national minimum contemplates useful employment for all who are willing to work; standards of nutrition and housing adequate to ensure the health of the whole population; and social insurance against privation resulting from unemployment, from accident, from the death of the breadwinner, from ill-health and from old age.

Post-war planning falls naturally into three broad fields: preparation for the demobilization, rehabilitation and re-establishment in civil life of the men and women in the armed forces; the reconversion of the economic life of the nation from a war-time to a peace-time basis, and its reconstruction in a manner which will provide opportunities for useful employment for all who are willing and able to work; and the provision of insurance against major economic and social hazards.

A broad program has already been developed for the re-establishment of veterans of the present war, and for the care of disabled veterans and the dependents of our fighting men and merchant seamen. You will be asked to approve a measure to provide war service gratuities for all who have served in the armed forces, and also measures to supplement the existing rehabilitation program.