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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

NORTH AMERICAN DEFENCE: In reviewing before the House of Commons, on January 28, Canada's defence planning and contributions to NATO, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. R.O. Campney, devoted a portion of his address to the defence of North America.

He said, in part:

"The defence of Canada--indeed of North America--has suddenly become almost as important to the other NATO nations as it has always been to ourselves. This fact arises, of course, from the emergence of an improved Russian nuclear weapon delivery capability against North America.

"Under such circumstances it becomes essential that greater efforts be put forth immediately to strengthen the defences of this continent because North America is the only great base from which operations for the defence of Europe can be supported, and also because of the necessity of protecting the thermonuclear retaliatory capacity of the United States, something which provides at the present time probably the greatest single deterrent to war.

"And so what we have come to term 'continental defence', that great joint effort of Canada and the United States to protect and to defend both countries against aggressive attack, is at the same time a very real and vital contribution to NATO's effort as well. Thus every dollar we spend on 'continental defence' has a double value. It has value first

and primarily, of course, for our own defence and, second, for the preservation of the defence capacity of NATO as a whole.

"Continental defence' is an expensive business. The so-called 'Pinetree' radar chain now in operation, supported by the fighter squadrons of air defence command, along with the mid-Canada line which Canada is proceeding to construct and the distant warning line to be constructed in the far north, together form a comprehensive air defence system and will cost many hundreds of millions of dollars. A large portion of the cost of this system is still to be paid. This cost will entail a very considerable drain on Canada's resources during the next few years.

"In passing I should like to express to our friends to the south our appreciation of the very fine spirit of co-operation and understanding shown in the development of this great defensive system, on the construction of which we are jointly engaged.

"Our relations with our neighbour demonstrate how easy it is for peoples with like ideals and with common incentives to work closely and effectively together in peace and harmony to their mutual benefit...."

"In concluding these few brief remarks I should like to emphasize the fact that Canada's military effort is motivated solely by considerations of self-protection. We have no aggressive designs against any other nation. We covet no nation's territory. We have never in-