



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA-U.S. MUTUAL DEFENCE

Excerpts from a speech by Mr. George R. Pearkes, V.C., Minister of National Defence for Canada to the National Defence Transportation Association, Seattle, Washington, October 12, 1959.

I have been asked to speak today about Canada-United States mutual defence. I will open my talk with a few remarks about Canada's international position. We Canadians find ourselves situated between the two most powerful nations on earth, the United States and the Soviet Union.

The implications of such a geographic location are obvious, but in spite of the difficulties that arise from time to time between Canada and the United States, we have acquired a certain maturity which leads us to believe that our problems can all eventually be worked out. I feel that this maturity which I have mentioned can be attributed in part to our connection with the British Commonwealth of Nations which brings us into intimate contact with countries spread throughout the four corners of the globe.

Canada and the United States are today closely associated in their efforts to achieve peace through the instrumentality of peaceful negotiations. We cannot accept as inevitable the thought of a world devastated by a nuclear conflict - yet we cannot deny that possibility. We realize this fact and we know that we must maintain sufficient military strength to deter any aggression, while at the same time, through the medium of diplomacy we must endeavour to establish the necessary foundation for international confidence. May I say that the recent efforts of your President in the pursuit of peace are greatly appreciated by all the free peoples of the world.

Our two countries have joined together to share in the defence of North America. We are also joined within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We have taken these measures because for the first time in history the nations on the North American continent are exposed to the possibility of a massive attack.