



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 50/39 CANADA SPEEDS PLANS FOR DEFENCE

An address by Mr. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to the Vancouver Board of Trade, on October 6, 1950.

It is just about four months ago that I had the pleasure of a visit to Vancouver and an opportunity to speak to the businessmen of this city. In that short space of time a great many things have happened that have made impressive headlines in our newspapers. On the surface, it looks as if the international situation had changed radically but I am not sure that the changes have been as great or as far-reaching as they seem at first sight. True, some of the problems that were with us in May of this year have been brought out in the open and important decisions have been announced regarding the manner in which we propose to deal with them. The greatest of these decisions was, of course, the clear-cut resolve of the United Nations to meet force with force. Following that decision, courageous action has been taken -- action that proves the determination that lies behind all our efforts to build a more stable, peaceful and prosperous world.

Without in any way minimizing the importance of the events of the past summer and the vital decisions that are even now under consideration in the international field, the fact still remains, I think, that there has been little basic change in the overall situation. The opening of the Korean campaign brought the situation to a head and made it necessary to speed up a defence preparedness programme that was already under way. We were then and we are now fighting what is essentially a cold war with the Communists. Because of the Korean situation, the cold war has now become lukewarm. But more important than the hostilities in Korea is the fact that we are still in a war of nerves. It is a war that has intensified in effect and one that shows little signs of coming to an early or sudden end.

We must, I believe, prepare ourselves for a long period of uncertainty and one in which it is going to be extremely difficult to tell just how the situation will develop. At times, it may appear that there is very little uncertainty and that the catastrophe of a third world war is upon us. On the other hand, if the pressure is off on the military front, we may be inclined to think that our troubles are over. It is easy to get caught in the swing to either extreme -- to devote all our energies to preparations for war or to be lulled into a false sense of security. In my view, both extremes are equally dangerous.