

University. Mr. Read, who is now serving on the International Court of Justice, was then Legal Adviser to Canada's Department of External Affairs.

Among other Canadian proposals which had a strong influence on the final form of the Charter was that providing for the subsequent review of the Charter. A second Canadian suggestion strengthened the international position of the Secretariat, while still another proposal helped establish the relationship of the General Assembly and the Security Council as organs of varying functions but with equality of status.

THE SEARCH FOR SECURITY:

In the wake of the San Francisco Conference, with its great hopes for progress and its basic assumption that there would be unanimity of outlook and harmony of practice amongst the five major powers, came disappointment and disillusionment. First there was the bitter realization at the first meetings of the Security Council that the Soviet Government had not been sincere in its assurances that the veto power would be used with discretion and a sense of responsibility. Then, in 1947, the Soviet Union refused to participate in the Marshall Plan or to allow any of its satellites to do so. This made it clear that the Soviet leaders were more bent on disruption than on co-operation. The cold war had begun.

A year later the Soviet blockade of Berlin made the cold war dangerously warm, and in February, 1948, the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia revealed clearly the true nature of Soviet imperialism. Unanimity amongst the Great Powers, on which the prospect of collective security through United Nations action was originally planned, swiftly gave way to mistrust and hostility. In this situation, certain countries felt impelled to make more limited collective defence arrangements of their own. Thus was born the idea of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The present Prime Minister of Canada was among the first publicly to suggest--as he did at the General Assembly in September 1947--that some nations might wish to seek greater safety in an association of those willing to accept more specific international obligations. In April, 1948, Mr. St. Laurent spoke in more specific terms in favour of a collective security agreement uniting those nations which believed that Soviet imperialism was thwarting our hopes for universal collective security through the United Nations. For Canada, the North Atlantic Treaty represented a marked departure from traditional policy in that we undertook specific defence commitments in advance and agreed to have Canadian forces sent abroad for defence purposes in peacetime.

NATO is quite consistent with the terms of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter under which member states are permitted to make arrangements for collective self-defence. It is an example of the exercise of this right in the face of a very real threat of aggression. Its formation represented an effort to realize the aims of the United Nations within a regional framework, by demonstrating to potential aggressors that any attempt to take advantage of the power vacuum in Europe would be resisted by a group of nations acting collectively.