

that collective security can work to halt aggression but, like any effort to stop wrong-doing, its costs may be high.

United Efforts for Collective Security

It was, of course, because the Soviet Union had time after time deliberately prevented the United Nations collective security machinery from working, had maintained a preponderance of armed strength after the war and had sabotaged every effort at peaceful reconstruction and political co-operation in Europe that the countries of the Atlantic community, feeling themselves in peril of aggression, took special collective measures under the United Nations Charter to maintain peace. In April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created.

Our Prime Minister was one of the first to foresee this development. In September 1947, he said before the United Nations General Assembly that nations might be forced to seek greater safety "in an association of democratic, peace-loving states willing to accept more specific international obligations in return for a greater measure of national security". Not only is the North Atlantic Treaty consistent with the United Nations Charter; it also supplements the Charter's general obligations in the security field with additional mutual obligations. The Treaty re-affirms the faith of its signatories in the purposes and principles of the Charter and specifically binds each NATO country to come to the defence of any other that is attacked.

NATO and the U.N. are thus complementary means towards our common goal of enduring peace and world-wide security. NATO is more than a military alliance. It is a partnership of like-minded nations sharing common traditions and a common devotion to the ideals of individual freedom and justice. Our NATO policy is insurance against the destruction of all we hold dear. The premium costs may seem high, but they are little in relation to the risk and the ultimate beneficiaries are all mankind.

The pooling of defence resources that the NATO countries have undertaken is unprecedented in peacetime. The progress made in the last five years is a truly remarkable achievement in international co-operation of which we can all be justly proud. The NATO forces are now strong enough to make an aggressor think twice about taking them on. Of course the resulting relaxation of international tension has itself been a danger to maintaining the necessary defence preparations.

We must realize that we cannot afford, either financially or psychologically, to turn our defence programmes on and off in response to Soviet moves. Steady effort, constant vigilance, and a tireless endeavour to negotiate with the Soviet Union on outstanding differences whenever possible must be our watchwords.

Continental Defence

At this point I would remind you that an important part of the defence of the North Atlantic region is the defence of North America. The primary aim of Canada and the United States, as for all nations, must be to protect