

would warrant their admission to the North Atlantic alliance, which is itself dedicated to the defence of the free world.

The admission of Greece and Turkey will, of course, enlarge the geographical area over which the North Atlantic Treaty is operative, and will entail an extension of the formal commitments of each party to the treaty. At the same time it must be remembered that Greece and Turkey are being invited to join as full members, not only enjoying all the privileges of membership but also incurring all the obligations. It is through the assumption of these reciprocal obligations that the two new members will contribute to the strength of the forces at the disposal of the alliance, and thus serve its immediate objective of creating a force of sufficient size to deter any would-be aggressor.

Honourable senators may have noted that observers from Greece and Turkey were present at plenary sessions of the recent Rome meeting of the North Atlantic Council, but were not eligible to participate as full members. All twelve present members of NATO must first ratify this protocol before the formal invitation can be extended to the two countries. Steps have already been taken or are now about to be taken by the governments in most NATO countries to obtain the approval of the various legislatures for ratification. We in Canada hope that these constitutional formalities required in the twelve signatory countries can now be completed as speedily as possible in order that the accession of Greece and Turkey to the treaty can be completed without further delay. It is to enable Canada to be in a position to take ratifying action at the appropriate moment that you are being asked to approve the resolution now before this house.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, I do not intend to complete at this time my remarks on the resolution. I am entirely in favour of the resolution, which I think is a step in the right direction. I realize that it would be contrary to our rules to refer a resolution of this kind to committee—at least, I have never known of anything like that to be done during my membership of this house—but I am going to make a suggestion. It is that I be allowed to move adjournment of the debate, and that we ask the honourable the Chairman of the External Relations Committee (Hon. Mr. Gouin), to call a meeting of that committee for, say, 2.30 this afternoon, and to invite the very distinguished Minister of External Affairs to attend for the purpose of giving us an historical outline of NATO as well as some information about the meeting that is going on in Paris at present. Of course we would not expect him

to disclose anything that he feels it would not be in the public interest to divulge. Speaking for myself, I know that a statement from the minister would be very informative, and as it appears that there will not be very much legislation to deal with today, it occurs to me that our time this afternoon could be well spent in listening to the minister. I would suggest also that all honourable senators—not alone those who belong to the committee—be asked to come to the meeting. If there are any questions to be asked of the minister, I am sure, knowing him as I do, that he would be glad to supply any information and to tell us how he looks upon this resolution. At the same time we could obtain an up-to-date synopsis of the United Nations meeting in Paris.

With that purpose in mind, I would move that the debate be adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Gouin: Honourable senators, I think the remarks of the honourable leader opposite are very well founded and I have reason to believe that the leader of the government had intended to refer this matter to the Committee on External Affairs. Therefore, if the house concurs, I would suggest that the meeting take place this afternoon at 2.30.

Hon. Mr. Marcotte: May I say a word?

The Hon. the Speaker: I would point out that there is before the house a motion for the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: May I make a statement?

The Hon. the Speaker: With leave of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, there is very little information that I am able to supply to the house in this matter. Therefore, if it is the wish of the Senate, we could meet the minister in committee this afternoon, and be enlightened on whatever questions honourable senators have in mind. I am quite agreeable to this procedure.

The Hon. the Speaker: I will allow the honourable senator from Ponteix (Hon. Mr. Marcotte) to speak, but I would remind him that this is not a debatable question.

Hon. Mr. Marcotte: All I wish to say, honourable senators, is that I quite agree with the suggestion made by the leader on this side, except perhaps as to the hour at which the committee should meet. If this house is to resume at 3 o'clock, the committee should meet earlier than 2:30 so that the minister may have sufficient time to deal with the subject.