

I frankly admit, however, that we have every right to be concerned with German good faith in this series of agreements. Many Canadians, including many of us in this House, and even more of our allies who are taking this decision with us and with all its consequences, bear on their bodies and in their minds scars from the German war machine. We remember how Hitler, with shocking and unscrupulous design, and with Soviet connivance and assistance, started World War II in 1939. We do not forget how the Nazis conducted that war with savage brutality, and how the German people supported it.

While we do not forget that and cannot forget it, it is my considered view that support of these agreements with the safeguards I have described is both wise and far-sighted, and of all the courses that are open to us this is the best course to follow in our effort to shape a better future.

I do not suggest that we should ignore the lessons of the past. Indeed, as George Santayana has said, "Those who will not learn from history are condemned to repeat it". But we should draw the right conclusions from the past, and we should also not ignore the vision of the future. Indeed, experience of the past teaches us that if a nation only looks backward to justify its fears of the future, it is likely by that very fact to suffer again the same tragedy which in the first place caused that fear. The past must influence but, I suggest, it should not determine and distort the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is because of my appreciation of history and not in spite of it that I believe the safeguards which we have worked out in these agreements within our North Atlantic Community Organization against unilateral abuse by Germany, or any other member, are of real value and make even stronger the case for a coalition which will include the Federal Republic of Germany with its sovereignty restored and on an equality with the other members. I also believe that the institutions and habits of co-operation which our Atlantic community is developing, and with which we now desire to associate Germany, may well be of even greater value than military safeguards in removing the risk that might follow from putting arms in the hands of Germans.

In the very nature of things there can never be on this earth, as I see it, absolute assurance or safety for anyone, individual or nation, because the future will depend among other things on attitudes and choices which we shall have to adopt from time to time. But there are good grounds, I think, for reasoned confidence in this matter. Moreover, whether this confidence will be justified will depend upon our own policies as well as upon those of Germany.