

The latter problem of Indo-China, which we touched on yesterday and which is so important to the free world, was publicly recognized as such at the December meeting of the North Atlantic Council; and I think it is at the root of French fears and hesitations in Europe at the present time. . . . We may not . . . be aware that French casualties during operations in Indo-China have been approximately 90,000 wounded, killed and missing -- and of that figure 40,000 have been killed. It is understandable, then, that in the plans for closer European defence unity, in which Germany will participate, the French still have very much in mind the diversion of their defence effort necessitated by the situation in Indo-China.

The additional protocols which the present French Government has said it intends to negotiate before it accepts the European Defence Treaty are meant, in part, to take into account France's overseas commitments and to allay the fears of the French people arising out of these overseas commitments and their relationship in turn to the new commitments that they are being asked to assume in Europe. The strong and expressed desire of the French Government to see the United Kingdom associate itself more closely with the European Defence Community is also, I think, to some extent a reflection of France's feeling that she cannot safely put her whole endeavour into the European army so long as she is committed in Indo-China.

It will be recalled here that the United Kingdom, which is already making such a big contribution to European defence and, indeed, to the defence of freedom generally, has already taken a number of steps in the direction of closer association with the European Defence Community. I am sure that we hope that she may find it possible to take even further steps to that end which will not prejudice, of course, her Commonwealth and overseas interests and responsibilities.

We, in Canada, have given evidence of our strong concern. I think, with the defence of Europe -- which is our own defence -- both by the pledge and by the presence of our forces in Europe and by our Programme of Mutual Aid. Moreover, . . . by signing, giving Parliamentary approval to the NATO-EDC protocol, we have recognized the direct importance to us of the European Defence Community arrangements themselves. By that protocol, we in Canada assume, as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, reciprocal obligations for defence along with the European Defence Community. When we talk about the Community and express our opinions on it we are talking about something with which we are already connected by our actions here. There is provision in this protocol for mutual consultations between the councils of the two organizations; provision for joint sessions whenever one or the other deems that desirable; and arrangements for the closest co-ordination on the technical level. In that sense, if European defence arrangements become operative they will bring Germany not merely into association with the European Defence Army but into association with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

So, the unity and the defence of Europe are not matters to which we give an Olympian blessing from a distant shore. In whatever final form the European Army becomes a reality, its officers and men will have Canadians as comrades-in-arms since we share a common air, which is the defence of freedom. We shall all be united, I hope, behind the shield of NATO.

Although the European Army, then, has not come into being, European integration is making encouraging progress in other respects. In fact, the day before yesterday an event of very real symbolic and practical importance in the development of European integration took place; and I am referring to the