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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

(On Thursday Hon. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced that the Canadian Government has informed other participants in recent Washington discussions that Canada is ready to enter into negotiations for a regional treaty for collective security. See Page 9.)

MR. CLAXTON'S TORONTO SPEECH: The following is partial text of the speech, entitled, "Vigilance - The Price of Freedom," prepared by the Minister of National Defence and Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, Hon. Brooke Claxton, for delivery at the Annual Meeting of the United Nations Association of Canada, in Toronto, on October 25:

"...The announcement of Western Union immediately was followed by statements by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada. These were of the utmost significance - they declared their Governments' intentions to support this effort to defend democratic order.

"The countries of Western Union have been working at political, economic and military levels to give substance to the words of this agreement. And, a matter of the greatest importance, they, together with the United States and Canada, have been working on the problem of how to strengthen Western Union with a North-Atlantic Security Pact. The reason for this is obvious. We all know now that it is much better to stand together than to fall separately. And make no mistake about it. If a war comes, if the Soviet Union commits an act of aggression, it will be an act which will break our peace and ultimately threaten our security. The only war possible today is a war of aggression by the Soviets. I have heard some people - just a few - speak about the possibility of Canada being neutral in such a war. I do not believe that this is even a theoretical possibility for us. Our vital

interests, even our territory could be open to attack. The choice in war would be a simple one - Communist or Canada. Our people would never tolerate a position in which we were passive while our country was being defended by others.

"For these reasons we have, as Mr. St. Laurent said, pressed for the consummation of a North-Atlantic Security Pact. That policy was supported unanimously by the National Liberal Convention in a resolution adopted at Ottawa on August 6 of this year, by the C.C.F. on August 21 and by the Progressive-Conservative Party on October 2.

"As Western Union becomes stronger, any chance that there might be of the Soviet Union winning an aggressive war will obviously become less. The existence of a North-Atlantic Security Pact of mutual assistance including the United States and Canada would further reduce the chance of Soviet success.

"The existence of an Atlantic Security Pact in 1935 would have prevented the Second World War in 1939.

"On this account the Soviet Union has pressed her efforts to drive the United States, Britain and France out of Berlin because her success in this line would deal a damaging blow at Western Union. It is this effort and the willingness to run the risks which it involves that has added tension to the present situation. I don't believe that the Russian people or even the Soviet leaders want war today; but their intransigent attitude has increased its possibility.