

*North Atlantic Treaty*

that Greece is situated very close to the iron curtain countries, and has indeed in the past five years had very serious relations with some of her neighbours either wholly or partially behind the iron curtain, makes of that country a very important and key strategic area. We know that the whole Mediterranean area is the area toward which any aggressor, such as may exist in eastern countries, would cast their longing eyes. It has been said time and time again, and I think with perfect accuracy, that whoever controls the entrance to the Suez canal controls the most important strategic position in the world. We know that if Russia ever felt she could overcome the forces of the west one of the first moves she would make would be toward the Mediterranean area in the direction of the Suez canal country.

We must realize therefore that one of the risks involved in bringing Turkey and Greece into NATO is that any event in that area would bring us into a war. Indeed I think hon. members should recall that Russia has already made threats against Turkey. That in itself emphasizes the risk we are taking, but I think if the minister had a chance to speak his full mind today he would agree that perhaps we can overestimate the importance of that threat. Nevertheless it is a threat, and it is something we have to keep in our minds as we measure the responsibilities we are taking by approving this protocol. The speakers who have preceded me have emphasized the fact that we are going into an entirely new area. We do not know fully, I suppose, at this time, exactly what that may mean, but it certainly extends our obligations. Though we may say that the accession of Greece and Turkey will strengthen security everywhere, let us not overlook the fact that it takes us into some territories that we are not quite familiar with in many respects and might possibly engage us in conflict sooner than we might otherwise be engaged.

I thoroughly agree with those who say that the Canadian people should know the fullest possible measure of the obligations that they take upon themselves when they become parties to any treaty, this one included. The minister therefore should make clear to the Canadian people the full implications, as far as he knows them, of the accession of Greece and Turkey into NATO. Let me hasten to say this, however. I am not blaming the minister for not taking more time this morning. He realizes, as we all do, that the session is nearly at an end and that perhaps this is not the occasion on which he could launch into a full-scale exposition of world affairs. But I for one

should like to have been able to sit down with the minister in a committee where I could ask him questions. I have in mind a thousand questions, about things that I am sure we should all like to know about, that I should like to get answered. I am sure that the members of the other place greatly enjoyed the splendid exposition he gave to them a few days back. I just saw snatches of the reports in the papers; but it would be something like that, it seems to me, that would be useful to us at this time. We should understand the full implications of all that we are doing. The Canadian people are entitled to know. How in the world can we expect them to join wholeheartedly in any international co-operative effort if they do not know what is going to be involved? I therefore cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of what my hon. friends who preceded me have both said, namely, that there should be no secrecy whatever, that the Canadian people should be taken into the full confidence of the minister and of the government, and that they should know exactly what is involved in this whole matter.

Along with the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) I should like to say this. We should be careful to realize this. In his speech this morning the minister quoted Mr. Sulzberger, the editor of the *New York Times*, in a statement to the effect that we are now engaged in a long, difficult and expensive project that would carry us into many years ahead; and the price of liberty, he said, is high. Realizing that, as we must, I think we ought to be careful to adopt within our own country and within NATO itself economic policies which will cushion just as far as possible the dislocating impact of the effort at rearmament, or perhaps I had better say the impact of defensive military preparation. I do not like to look upon the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in any respect as a war-making organization. It is indeed an international co-operative effort which I, along with the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar, hope is not going to be confined to military preparations. We ought to be doing a whole lot more than that, I admit. But let us make certain that as we proceed in this international effort at co-operation we do not take steps that will destroy our economic position as a nation. We could easily do that, when we realize that this is going to be a long, costly and difficult period ahead of us.

I am keenly interested in the questions that were asked by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon). I only wish we had time to go into committee and to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) a