

seaborne forces will be capable of operating with great speed and effectiveness on the ground even in the face of widespread destruction and contamination which will have resulted from the long-range high explosive, bacteriological, chemical, or atomic bombardment.

With the increased range of action and of rapidity in transit of modern military forces, continents today have already become the smallest geographical units on the basis of which questions of defence can properly be studied; consequently, effective arrangements for the defence of the territory of one nation have become matters of vital concern to all other nations of that continent. Further, the particular anxieties which concern us as a result of present policies behind the Iron Curtain have necessitated an extension of association in defence beyond the continent of North America to include both the nations of North America and of Western Europe in order that we may create an adequate balance or counterpoise.

Perhaps I might refer to this matter first because, within the last year, the answer to these problems has been given in most convincing fashion in the Atlantic Treaty through which Canada and the United States are being brought into association with other nations of the North Atlantic community in Western Europe.

Through the organization which this Treaty provides we may expect that the democratic countries of Western Europe and of North America combined will be able to muster an overwhelming preponderance in military, economic and moral resources in opposition to any aggressor, and we may reasonably hope that, by the manifest intention of all concerned to make proper preparation for the discharge of the responsibilities they have assumed, there will be created an effective deterrent to any nation or group of nations which might be tempted to launch an armed attack against any of the Treaty signatories.

As the Prime Minister of Canada has said:-

"This Treaty is to preserve the peace of the world by making it clear to any aggressor that if he were so unwise as to resort to war he would be apt to finish with the Kaiser and Hitler and Mussolini."

And to quote Mr. Pearson, our Secretary of State for External Affairs:

"For the people of the North Atlantic community the Treaty is a new beginning. It carries the promise of a greater security and fuller co-operation amongst the nations."

Such is the nature of the plan which has been made in order to chart a course of action for Canada and the United States which associates us in defence with like-minded peoples overseas so that, all together, we may be so strong that our freedom will not be challenged - so strong that the leaders of those who may have contemplated aggressive action by armed force will be induced to turn, while yet they may, to co-operation in the great objectives for the benefit of all peoples, their own included, which may be achieved through the United Nations.

For the peoples of North America, arrangements in relation to defence collaboration with Western Europe, however