

This problem of defence, however, is not of concern to us merely as two countries -- even when those two countries together make up the major part of a continent. Under the conditions of modern warfare, a whole continent or even two or more continents are not necessarily an impregnable defensive combination. As long as war remains a threat in the world, we must look to our friends and ask ourselves whether by association with those friends we can enhance the security of all.

This idea of a defensive association, of collective security if you wish, is not in any way at odds with the broader concept of world security which we have endorsed in the United Nations Charter. As a matter of fact, Article 51 of the Charter specifically recognizes the right of collective self-defense. And until the United Nations becomes an agency which can fully guarantee world security, it would seem only logical that we should seek security in such smaller combinations as may be open to us.

This question, too, has its bearing on Canada and the United States individually, and on the two countries together. The Prime Minister of Canada and our Secretary of State for External Affairs, have both endorsed the idea of an association of Western European and Atlantic democracies, under Article 51 of the Charter, whose members would pledge themselves to collective defence and mutual aid in war, and would work together for freedom and prosperity in peacetime. On your side of the border, a distinguished citizen of this State - Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg -- was the author, last spring, of a resolution looking to the association of your country with other like-minded countries in measures for buttressing security by arrangements under the portions of the United Nations Charter which authorize collective or regional action.

Here, of course, I am dealing with ideas and not with accomplished facts. But I wish to emphasize that this particular idea -- and I think it is one of the most important ideas being considered by statesmen today -- is one that has its proponents in both Canada and the United States. If it should come to fruition, Canada and the United States individually, and Canada and the United States working in concert, will be vital factors in bringing it about. And the happy co-operation between Canada and the United States would continue to prove its value in any wider area of cooperation which might emerge.

This, I feel, is the thought that I should leave with you today. We are citizens of two great countries. Our countries work together in friendly association that is of the greatest benefit to you. And, the close association of our two countries is a potent force for the realization, in the wider sphere, of those ideals which we both hold dear.

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