

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 19, 1951

The Senate met at 11 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY—MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a message from His Excellency the Governor General reading as follows:

The Honourable The Members of the Senate:

I have received with great pleasure the Address that you have voted in reply to my Speech at the opening of parliament. I thank you sincerely for this Address.

Alexander of Tunis

### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

ACCESSION OF GREECE AND TURKEY

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson moved:

Resolved, that it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the accession of Greece and Turkey, signed by Canada at London on October 17, 1951, and that this house do approve the same.

He said: This resolution seeks the approval by parliament of the protocol which was tabled in the Senate on December 11th. It will enable an invitation to be extended to Greece and Turkey to join the North Atlantic Alliance, in accordance with the unanimous decision of the North Atlantic Council at its meeting in Ottawa last September to recommend to the twelve countries which are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty that these two countries be admitted to full membership.

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to review in any detail the arguments which caused this unanimous decision to be taken, though I might refer briefly to those points which carried most weight in formulating the Canadian position on this issue.

As was evident from the public debate which attended the North Atlantic Council's consideration of this question, some members of the North Atlantic Alliance, at least initially, had certain misgivings regarding the desirability of extending membership to Greece and Turkey, and would have preferred some alternative method, outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, for associating them with Western defence plans. On the whole, such misgivings had their origins in the fear that the admission of two geographically remote countries, which did not entirely share the political and social heritage of the present members of the

Alliance, might adversely affect the attainment of the long-term objective of the North Atlantic Alliance, namely, the creation of a closely-knit community dedicated to the promotion of economic stability and social well-being of its peoples.

In the event, however, this disadvantage was acknowledged to be far outweighed by the many obvious advantages of having Greece and Turkey as full members of the alliance. Among other things, it was recognized that the military urgency of the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean area required the rapid creation of some defensive organization, and that any attempt to make the necessary arrangements outside the framework of NATO might have taken too long to organize. In any event, the two countries concerned had publicly declared their reluctance to accept any defence arrangements other than full membership in the North Atlantic Alliance, and in so doing had received the full public support of the United Kingdom and the United States, the two countries which, apart from Greece and Turkey themselves, have the greatest defence responsibilities in the Eastern Mediterranean area.

Quite apart from considerations such as those just mentioned, which would have made it difficult to reach a satisfactory solution other than admission to NATO, there is the generally accepted fact that an attack on Greece and Turkey, regardless of whether or not they were parties to the North Atlantic Treaty, would precipitate a general war in which most of the countries of the North Atlantic alliance would almost certainly be involved. It follows logically, therefore, that no time should be lost in enabling them to participate as soon as possible in the defensive planning of NATO. Indeed, their strategic location on the unguarded southeastern flank of the North Atlantic area renders their adequate defence an essential element in the security of that area as a whole.

Nor must we overlook the fact that Greece and Turkey are in a position to make a substantial contribution to the defence potential of NATO. They have already demonstrated their resolute determination to defend their own territories against outside aggression, despite the overwhelming pressure to which they have been constantly subjected by their powerful Soviet neighbour. They have, moreover, earned the respect and admiration of the whole free world by making a valuable military contribution to the United Nations cause in Korea—and this notwithstanding their preoccupation with the security of their home territories. If for no other reason, such evident devotion to the cause of freedom