

*North Atlantic Treaty*

democracies were completing the demobilization of their wartime armies and disposing of their wartime factories and equipment.

Because of these failures to reach agreement in the United Nations and the necessity for the prevention of further aggression and for the maintenance of peace, the western democracies have been compelled to consider regional security pacts. No one will deny that regional pacts are poor substitutes for universal security based on universal national disarmament and reliance upon a truly international police force. It is indeed a second best. Believing this, we must make every effort to leave the way open to all other nations to join with us and the other parties to the Atlantic agreement in strengthening the United Nations as opportunities occur.

The pact now before us recognizes the existence of a division in the world and emphasizes that there are two opposing power blocs. Unfortunately in the present world situation there appears to be no alternative to that recognition. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the reason the western European democracies moved closer together for joint defence was that they viewed with grave alarm and misgiving the formation of a solid communist bloc under the leadership of the soviet union. It is not too strong a statement to make to say that the eastern bloc is under the complete control of Russia. Proof of this, I think, can be seen in the attitude of the cominform in its treatment of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia has proved beyond the possibility of a doubt that no nation under communist domination is free to pursue a policy which differs in any respect from that of the soviet union. Events in Czechoslovakia last year, to which reference has already been made this afternoon, only emphasized the alarm which western European nations had felt during the preceding years. They watched the occupation first and then the absorption of the Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. They saw the democratic institutions of those countries destroyed, and the leading social democrats as well as the leaders of other political parties disappear into captivity into Siberia. To this day their fate with that of many thousands of others is largely unknown. They watched the unilateral seizure of part of Poland and of Bessarabia. They saw the breaking of the promises made at Yalta and Potsdam regarding the future of Poland, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria and Roumania.

As I have already said, the coup in Czechoslovakia just over a year ago frightened the western European nations into conferences and action for defensive purposes. Since then the institution of a completely totalitarian

regime in eastern Germany and eastern Europe, together with the Berlin blockade, have underlined the fears which they then felt. Then, too, every attempt was made by communist parties to prevent the success of the European recovery program without which there could be neither hope for the European peoples nor economic recovery for any part of the world including North America itself, which has been the main source of supply in connection with this program during the past year.

The western European nations, realizing that under the best of circumstances they were too weak to resist aggressive pressure or an armed attack should it threaten their freedom and their democratic institutions, endeavoured to arouse the British commonwealth and North America to what they considered to be a very dangerous situation. I want to say this because of the propaganda that is heard from one end of this country to the other. Contrary to the propaganda against the proposed North Atlantic treaty, the proposal is not an attempt on the part of so-called American imperialism to bring western European democracies into an alliance for the purpose of destroying the soviet union. It originates in the anxiety of western European democracies to persuade North America to support them in a defensive union. They believed this would halt a threat of aggression and provide the necessary defensive strength so that if the soviet union has aggressive plans against them she will be turned from that course and thus make possible the peaceful solution of existing difficulties and problems.

In order to give some support to that statement, let me quote from the March issue of the *Socialist Commentary*, published in London, England, but representative of western European socialist thought generally. In a few paragraphs which I want to put on record, it sums up the concept I have just given.

These paragraphs read as follows:

The overwhelming military superiority of Russia in Europe and the realization that within Russia no powerful forces exist to modify or restrain the possible ruthless intentions of her rulers, present the decisive reasons for joint western defence plans. Even in its necessarily inadequate form the Atlantic pact is an important expression of the idea of collective security which can deter aggression and restore some confidence among weaker nations. For this reason, and not because of any illusions about perfect defence guarantees, it was right that the Brussels powers sought to commit America in advance. They were justified in doing this because American policy had been defined in the same spirit that animated the western European statesmen. In his inaugural address, the President re-affirmed this when he said: