

*North Atlantic Treaty*

which Canada is taking upon herself now by approving this protocol. I assume that since there has been so great an approach to unanimity of opinion today it will be approved unanimously. I hope it will. I do not know of any debate in the history of my membership in the House of Commons in which hon. members have been so near unanimity of view. I find myself in thorough agreement with all that has been said today. I find no exception whatever, and I want the house to know that that is the way we feel.

I think that we fully realize the seriousness of the obligations that devolve upon Canadians as a consequence of extending the area of these obligations into a territory that is different in many respects, strategically, geographically, socially and in every other way from the North Atlantic area. We think we have weighed most carefully the risks involved in approving the accession of Greece and Turkey against the advantages. I must say that as far as I was able to weigh the risks and the advantages with the information I had at my disposal I had to cast my lot on the side of the advantages, and I want to say that we thoroughly approve of the protocol and hope that this afternoon or evening the house will give its unanimous approval to it.

All through history Greece and Turkey have demonstrated that they are lovers of liberty. There have been cases where they have had a chance to demonstrate that they are lovers of liberty, that they are determined to preserve their liberties and to help preserve liberty throughout the world. For many years both of them, with the exception of a few intervals, have been traditionally friends of the Anglo-American people. I think they are now friends of the Anglo-American people, and the fact that they have indicated their acceptance of the invitation to become full members of NATO indicates that they have a friendly feeling toward us. I imagine that at least one of them, Turkey, might have been influenced to some degree by the near alienation, if I may put it that way, of some of the good feeling that existed in the Arab world prior to about four years ago. I believe that in the main there is every indication that Turkey has not been too seriously influenced in that regard and that it has friendly feelings toward the western nations.

Both of these nations have demonstrated that they are prepared to do their part to carry out their responsibilities as members of the United Nations. I listened very

[Mr. Low.]

attentively to what the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) had to say this morning. One thing struck me as very pertinent, and it is something upon which I have commented a good many times. There are too many nations that have accepted membership in the United Nations organization and are not prepared to measure up to the responsibilities that they have taken upon themselves. They have been long on talk and short on performance. I do not say that of Greece and Turkey. I think within the range of their competence and capacities they have discharged their responsibilities well.

When attending the United Nations assembly in 1947 and in 1950 I was struck by the seriousness with which the representatives of these countries took their duties, the way that they conducted themselves, and the attitude they had toward the obligations of membership in the United Nations. The very fact that they did not hesitate to do what they could in connection with the crisis in Korea, particularly Turkey, by sending assistance in the form of armed forces, indicates to the whole world that they do not take their membership in these international organizations lightly. Therefore I think we need have no fear about these two nations fulfilling their obligations if they become full members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I said we had weighed the risks against the advantages and found that the balance was in favour of the advantages. Let us not overlook that there are risks involved in bringing these nations into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I am quite sure that our Canadian people must come to realize this, and I hope we can help them to realize it. There is no question about the risks. These nations are situated in a geographical area that is very close to countries that may become aggressors in another direction. There is no questioning the fact that strategically these two countries are in most important key positions. For many years Mr. Churchill has tried to get the world to understand how important the Mediterranean area is strategically in any conflict that may arise. A lot of people in the world have not heeded what Mr. Churchill has tried to make us understand.

The very fact that Russia has always looked to the west for an outlet through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus makes Turkey, which has been for some years the guardian of the entrance to the Black Sea, of strategic importance beyond anything that we can emphasize here. So too the fact