

these countries affects the people of Canada and the United States. Neither Napoleon, the Kaiser, nor Hitler, nor any other great dictator has ever placed or drawn a voluntary line for his conquests. They have been stopped only when the free peoples of the world were able to muster sufficient strength to halt the march of aggression. The world of today shrunk by the weapons of modern war, the speed of modern communications leaves no room for the neutral. Determination to remain neutral is a pathetic fallacy. The sort of aggressor we are faced with cares not at all for any declaration of neutrality.

The North Atlantic Pact will provide such a combination of force, military and economic, that no power could hope to win a war against it. We are determined not to allow Russia to pick us off one by one. This is what Hitler did and what Stalin must not be permitted to do. Acting together the signatories present a preponderance of power that can effectively safeguard the peace. A North Atlantic Pact in good time might well have prevented war in 1914 or 1939. Had Hitler or the Kaiser been faced with the democratic determination represented in the North Atlantic Security Pact, they would have been forced to seek peace rather than war. If we believe in it, foster and support it, it will prevent war in our time.

The Pact conceals no aggressive design whatsoever. Because we have fire engines it doesn't mean we believe in fire; because we have policemen doesn't mean we encourage crime. To the contrary it means that we are sensible enough to take effective steps to prevent damage by fire or by criminals.

On these accounts we have worked with you and the other free western nations to establish the Pact as a basis for an enduring peace. It is another example of a common effort to common ends.

It is with some pride that I tell you of the action that Canada has taken with regard to the North Atlantic Security Pact. Of course, we were in on the discussions from the beginning and it even has been suggested that the first public proposal of the Pact to be made by any national statesman was made at the Assembly of the United Nations at Lake Success in September, 1947 by the present Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent. Last Friday, our Senate and House of Commons each unanimously adopted resolutions approving the ratification of the Pact. On Saturday as Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, I signed a submission to Council asking that the Prime Minister be authorized to sign the instrument of ratification. That instrument was signed on Saturday and I am happy to say that it was deposited there this very day.

Canada is the first nation to ratify this instrument. We may hope that this example of unanimity and speed of action will be followed to indicate to the only possible aggressor that the democracies can take quick and effective action because action is needed in addition to words.

Good Neighbours

You have observed that the title of my speech is "Canada - United States: Good Neighbours but are We Good Enough?"

As to our being good neighbours, there is abundant and convincing evidence; but what makes evidence unnecessary and words inadequate is that we are linked together by geographical association, economic, social and industrial standards, friendly and family relations . . . as no two countries on earth have ever been.

It is good; it is almost all good, but can our relationship be better?