

The interest, however, of the North Atlantic countries in collective security is not regional. This has been demonstrated by the assistance which many of them are now giving to your forces and those of the Republic of Korea in the fight which the United Nations is now waging against aggression in Korea. Under the flag of the United Nations in Korea there are, in addition to the forces of the Republic of Korea, forces from fourteen member states of the United Nations. Seven of these are members of the North Atlantic Alliance (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Canada). Three are non-Atlantic members of the British Commonwealth (Australia, New Zealand and South Africa). Two are Mediterranean countries (Greece and Turkey). Two are South-East Asian countries (the Philippines and Thailand).

The United States is the leader of these forces of the United Nations in Korea. For a time its forces fought alone alongside the South Koreans in a gallant rear-guard action against the North Korean aggressors. Even today the United States provides about three-quarters of the total number of the men serving in the land, air and naval forces which are operating under the United Nations in support of the forces of the Republic of Korea.

Korea is only one example of the way in which the United States has, since the end of the Second World War, shouldered the heavy burden of the leadership of the free world. There are many other examples: Greece, Marshall aid, the establishment of a North Atlantic Peace Force in Western Europe under the command of General Eisenhower.

The United States is today the leader and by far the most powerful member of a world-wide association of free nations which includes the nations of the North Atlantic. The leader of the opposing side and by far the most important member of that side is Russia. The two sides are now engaged in an armaments race. They are engaged in a struggle for potential allies. They are waging so-called cold wars throughout the world for men's minds. They are fighting a shooting war in Korea. Each side appears to fear that the other is able and willing to launch at any time a so-called preventive war against it. Each appears to fear that the other side may by accident precipitate the world into a third world war with all its imaginable and unimaginable horrors.

We live from day to day poised precariously on the edge of catastrophe. This, as Mr. Acheson has said recently, "twists and tortures all our lives".

Under conditions of such tension, frustration and bitterness, it is not surprising that governments and peoples should be faced with problems of peculiar difficulty in their relations with each other. This applies even to governments and peoples so friendly, so understanding of each other, as those of Canada and the United States.

Let us look at some aspects of the problem from the Canadian side of the border - remembering that you and we are neighbours, friends and allies, bound together in an indissoluble partnership for better or for worse.

It seems to some of us in Canada that one difficulty in our relations may arise out of the way in which the great differences in population and wealth between our two countries tend to blur the reality of our common lot.