

Far from being inconsistent with the charter, the Atlantic pact is within the framework of the charter. It is the necessary complement of the charter, it serves the same cause, that of peace and security.

To all genuine Frenchmen, to those whose patriotism rises above all ideologies, he points out the following:

And is it not a well-known fact that the western allies, relying on the common victory and on a friendship born out of war, have demobilized their troops and reduced their armaments, while in Russia and the satellite countries not only has the war potential been maintained, but the troops on active service have been kept in uniform. That lack of balance between forces, which is not warranted by any exceptional circumstance, threatens security and causes anxiety. That is all the more true because these forces are shrouded in mystery and the Russians refuse to submit to any control whilst the western democracies hide neither their strength nor their armaments.

Finally, and above all, these forces are subordinated to an ideology which is avowedly bent on expansion and which has possessed since 1947, a powerful instrument, the cominform, a political manifestation of a military alliance.

We have the same mentality as our ancestors in the old country and we are aware, I feel, just as they are, of a situation which the press summarizes as follows. I now take the liberty of quoting Mr. Froissart in L'aurore France libre:

The pact promises nothing more than to allow us to live and die with our religious creed, under our laws, within a moral code which, at least, does not purport to make falsehood a patriotic duty, informing a family duty, and police terrorism a means of social emancipation.

Evidently, Mr. Speaker, we would consider it more satisfactory were it not necessary to sign alliances in order to ensure peace. However, we require a certain degree of security for ourselves, for our families and the families of our children. I feel we shall obtain this security only through an agreement for peace between those great nations who have the habit of respecting their undertakings and whose military and industrial strength is such that no aggressor will undertake lightly to overcome them.

The United Nations charter was enthusiastically accepted in this country. This pact devolves upon us certain moral obligations but the express obligations comprised by its terms are less formal than those in the United Nations charter.

Indeed, under the United Nations pact, we had undertaken, with the approval of this parliament and of the nation, to carry out the decisions of the Security Council, whenever a decision had been reached by the majority.

Under this pact, we undertake to consider any aggression against the territory of any signatory power as an aggression against ourselves, but we reserve the right to decide by ourselves, in this Canadian parliament, the form, the extent and the time of our participation in hostilities.

It is a pact of mutual security, but one which under no circumstances can serve as a pretext for offensive aggression. We are signing it as a defence pact against aggression and I am positive that no Canadian would have it serve as an instrument of offensive aggression against anyone. None of the member governments would want to use it as Communists claim we wish to use it, as a green light to shower atomic bombs upon them.