

all admit, I think, that our geographic position, our historic ties, our security and our Christian traditions demand that Canada take a place within this community of European nations. It is a secret to no one that the communist leaders of the Soviet Union are dreaming of world domination. To achieve this end, they rely as well on the weakening of the democracies as on the might of their own armies. Well, I am convinced that if we take the proper steps to make ourselves and the Charter respected, the democracies will convince the communist leaders that it would be impossible for them to win any war which they might precipitate, and, realistic as they are, they will launch no war which they are not confident of winning.

What I wish to emphasize again, what I wish to say once and for all is that if we want to be strong, it is not with the intention of waging war but solely of preventing it.

The tragedy of the subjugation of one nation after the other by a dictatorship must not repeat itself. Should it happen again, the sufferings of invaded peoples and the losses of the liberating armies would be much more considerable than in the last conflict.

A new conflagration would ruin us economically and would shatter the whole economy of the world, but the ruins it would accumulate would not be confined to the economic sphere. With atomic and bacteriological weapons, a new war would probably bring about the destruction of civilized mankind. If, unhappily, war should again break out, the United States and the Soviet Union would inevitably be involved. In such an event, we could not remain neutral. We are in fact situated between these two Great Powers and, whether we like it or not, war would be at our doorsteps. It would not be merely a conflict between these two states, but a conflict between a communist and atheistic world and our democratic and Christian civilization. Between these two ways of life we have no choice.

The religious persecutions which are now prevailing with increased fury in the countries behind the iron curtain are painful evidence that communist expansion is the most serious threat to our religious and civil liberties. I do not want Canada to become a new Hungary. It is because we wish to do everything in our power to ensure the preservation of our dearest institutions and our most sacred traditions that my colleagues and I are advocating the conclusion of the North Atlantic Security Pact. We are doing it frankly and openly in all provinces of Canada and in both languages.

We want peace. We want security. We want to be able to go on devoting our resources and energies to the preservation of the welfare and prosperity of our country.

It is in this spirit that we must envisage the North Atlantic Security Pact, the purpose of which, and the only purpose, is to ensure peace and brotherhood among men.