

ANSWER: We do not allow, and there never has been any attempt, but if there were, we would not allow any country of the Commonwealth or our great neighbour to the south of us to attempt to tell us how we should run our affairs, so that our loyalty to the Commonwealth and loyalty to our neighbour is based upon what we decide to be in our interests because of our mutual dependence on each other for general welfare.

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QUESTION: Despite pressures from both sides, I presume?

ANSWER: Well I have never felt pinched by those pressures.

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QUESTION: On the Portuguese possessions -- you said there were no secret clauses. Are there any clauses specifically excluding them? Because on the basis of that treaty the U.S.A. gets bases in the French Protectorates of Africa and in Algeria. Therefore if the Portuguese possessions are not specifically excluded by that they might be used here as well.

ANSWER: They might be used by the United States, but here this undertaking is an undertaking to repel aggression directed against any of the metropolitan territories of the signatories and nothing more than that.

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QUESTION: Goa is regarded by the Portuguese as a metropolitan territory.

ANSWER: It is not so regarded in relationship to the North Atlantic Treaty.

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QUESTION: The same is true of Pondicherry?

ANSWER: Oh yes it is, oh yes. We could not, even had we recommended it, have got our people to sanction an undertaking by us to fight in any part of the world. This was seriously considered you know and it was a new step for us because we had never previously made any peace-time commitments and our people approved of the limited commitments that were involved in this North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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QUESTION: Would you say that before you came here you had certain broad impressions about this country and now that you are on the eve of leaving us you would say you have changed or formed new ones?

ANSWER: No, I would say that I have been happy to find that the general impressions I had before I came here were confirmed by the more detailed impressions I have derived from what I have seen and what I have heard.

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