

Under the UN Charter we all agreed to settle disputes by pacific means, to refrain from using force to attack any state and to give every assistance in any action taken under the Charter to deal with any state that breaches the peace.

Originally it was intended that each member of the United Nations should provide forces under individual agreement to assist in repelling aggression on orders of the Security Council. It was intended that detailed arrangements should be worked out through the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations. Progress with the conclusion of these military agreements was, of course, prevented by the Soviet Union. The result was that when the Korean incident occurred the UN had no forces available to deal with such acts of aggression. It was, of course, precisely because of the inability of the UN to provide for collective security that the North Atlantic Treaty was concluded to fill the security gap in the North Atlantic area.

In this Treaty each of the twelve signatory states agreed to come to the assistance of each of the other signatories if they are attacked. But more important still, the treaty envisaged the creation of sufficient combined military strength to provide an effective deterrent to aggression. At the present time the North Atlantic Nations are actively engaged in working out the form and extent of the contribution which each of the signatories can best make to their combined strength.

Now what does all this mean for Canadian defence policy? The Korean incident resulted in one important change. The creation of the Special Force means that from now on we will have a Canadian Force in being available to assist, without undue delay, in discharging a part of our obligations under the UN Charter and the North Atlantic Treaty. At the present time the Force is being trained for service in Korea, if that seems to be the right place to send it when it is trained and ready. But there are other areas in the world; for what has happened in Korea might be repeated, and it might be that our Special Force would be despatched to some entirely different place if circumstances warranted and Parliament approved.

Provided the Korean incident is successfully terminated before too long a time has elapsed, the Special Force would be available for service as part of a deterrent force in Europe, if its employment there would fit in effectively with the joint plans. Meanwhile, as you all know, the most important obstacle to the creation on the continent of Europe of extensive ground forces is the shortage of equipment and of the capacity to produce equipment, weapons and supplies. I don't need to tell you either that, speaking generally, it takes longer to get into large-scale production than it does to train men to a fighting pitch. For the immediate future, therefore; so far as Europe is concerned, there is a most urgent need for military supplies to be put into the hands of the men who are already there.

Now I must admit I have been rather surprised to see that this point has been misinterpreted in certain