

the economic and social achievements of the United Nations. We shall be more concerned with the economic and social side for the next three years, because we have now been elected to the economic and social council. I hope that during our term of service on that council we may play a respectable part in furthering the activities of the United Nations in that field. In the long run, of course, international political activity in maintaining peaceful conditions and removing causes of war will not succeed unless it can be founded on good economic and social conditions. That is where we can make a contribution in the economic and social council.

So we are glad to note that the post-war specialized agencies of the United Nations--in none of which the U.S.S.R., that apostle of international co-operation, participates--are developing their activities along highly constructive lines. A very important development took place a few weeks ago in the present assembly when it adopted a resolution supporting a programme of technical assistance in the economic development of under-developed countries. This action grew out of what is called point four of Mr. Truman's statement to Congress nearly a year ago. A sound scheme of this kind appears to us to be an effective method of helping the less fortunate peoples of the world to help themselves. It is, I think, of particular importance at a time when the peoples of Asia and Africa are stirring and should be encouraged to help themselves along the lines of sound economic development. It is also very important, I think, that the initiative shown by the United States in this matter, followed by support from so many governments, has been taken in and through the United Nations.

As one of the countries of the world with highly developed technical skill and facilities for training technicians, I believe we in Canada should play our part in this development. It is a long-range investment which may turn out to be very valuable to us.

The North Atlantic Community

However, if the United Nations has important accomplishments to its credit, it has, as I have said--for reasons I need not go into now but which I think are familiar to all hon. members of this house--been unable to solve the paramount question of collective security. So we have had to fall back on the North Atlantic Treaty, and I should like to say a few words about that.

It was the hope of the western democratic powers that such a treaty would not be necessary, but it turned out to be necessary and I believe that in the future the signing of that treaty--which does not by-pass the United Nations or evade the spirit of the charter--will turn out to be the cornerstone in the structure of general collective security we are still trying to erect.

In meeting the obvious aggressive intentions of Soviet Russia, the western world up to the present time has been faced with two difficulties. In the first place there was the difficulty created by the failure of the U.S.S.R. to disarm after the war, which put the forces of that country proportionately in a so much stronger position than those of the western European democracies which were in particular opposed to it. The second difficulty was the lack of any specific assurance that in the event of aggression the North Atlantic nations would be willing to act together. Well, Mr. Speaker, under the terms of the North Atlantic Pact we now have that assurance. Since the signing of that pact we have made encouraging progress in setting up the necessary organizations for the purpose of carrying out its provisions. I believe the various agencies that have been set up as a result of the meetings we have held have been explained to hon. members, and I do not think I need go further into that matter at this time. We have now, I think we can say, completed the second stage in the organization of our common defence. The first was working out the text of the treaty; the second was the establishment of the working organizations under that text. But I would not wish to leave the impression, of course, that our task under the North Atlantic arrangement is completed. In fact, it has only begun. The nations of the north Atlantic now face the problem of implementing their pledges. The parties to the treaty have undertaken to strengthen their individual and common defence by integrating their defence forces and resources. That means that each nation taking part will be expected to furnish to the common pool that