

Mr. Roberts: I would like to have a copy of the whole thing.

The Chairman: Would you like to check with the Department before authorizing its printing, or do you feel it is necessary, Professor?

Professor McNaught: It is an official letter, so I cannot see that there would be any objection.

The Chairman: Is it agreed that this should be printed as an appendix?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: Mr. Ryan?

Mr. Ryan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Professor McNaught, I was going to question you about the very paragraph on page 6 about which Mr. Harkness just finished questioning you. I was objecting to your dogmatic statement, I thought, that:

Certainly West Germany puts no more faith in America's willingness to defend her by nuclear retaliation against Russia than does de Gaulle.

You put this as if it were a fact. I would support Mr. Harkness in what he has to say from my experience on the North Atlantic Assembly, the consultative assembly connected with the NATO Alliance over a period of the last three years. I would say that any West German representative to whom I spoke in the course of that time was extremely nervous about any suggestion of a withdrawal by American or Canadian forces from the continent for the very reason that their presence there and their strength there lent credibility to the willingness of the North American continent to go to war, if need be, in their defence.

That is not a question, that is a statement on my part, Professor, but I thought I should support Mr. Harkness on it.

My first question. Would you not agree that every one of the 15 members of the NATO Alliance has lived, for the last 20 years, in relative peace and security within its own boundaries, and that this is some kind of a world record, particularly for these touchy times?

● 1310

Professor McNaught: Relative peace and security would, of course, perhaps exclude Greece and Turkey and possibly, in terms of peace, Portugal.

Mr. Ryan: No, they have not been invaded. I said within their boundaries.

Professor McNaught: Within their boundaries, yes. But they have had engagements between themselves; certainly Greece and Turkey have.

Mr. Ryan: Do you not think that some of Greece's troubles have been due to Communist infiltration, and also in the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola?

Professor McNaught: There is no question at all that unrest and political turbulence have been influenced by Communist feelings, yes.

Mr. Ryan: Yes. On page 5 of your written submission you dealt with Professor Eayrs' suggestion about diverting a billion dollars from our military budget to other aims. At the bottom of the middle paragraph you say, and I quote:

the same billion dollars spent on weaponry and personnel which in no way affect the military power of the alliance

Now this is what I find to be a bit incredible, that our contribution to the alliance in no way affects its military power. Are you aware, Professor, that our air division is one of the top divisions professionally manned?

Professor McNaught: Yes I am.

Mr. Ryan: Are you aware that these are probably tops in their profession, that they have nuclear and conventional weaponry that contributes approximately 10 per cent of the air strength in Europe, that our armoured brigade is one of the finest there is in the world, that we are no longer doing with 100,000 men what we can do with 9,000 or 10,000 men? This is a strong firm commitment from Canada, and I would take issue with you when you say there is no military power contribution from Canada in this respect.

Also we have the NATO naval program in the Atlantic, and I understand that this is a far greater contribution than the public generally know about. It has been run down considerably in the last while, but if the true facts were known, that naval force of ours has much to offer to the military strength of the NATO Alliance. Having said that, what would your reaction be to what I have had to say?

Professor McNaught: I am completely persuaded by the analysis of the relationship of Canadian military potential to the general power of the alliance which has been made not only by Melvin Conant, but also by Professor Eayrs, more recently. Professor Eayrs' point, as I recall it, is that while nobody detracts from the skill and training of the air division and the rest of it in West Germany, it is considerably over and above the strike power required and assessed as required by NATO commanders. And the more general point that Conant insists on, is that in this age we cannot, because of our size, contribute enough to make a significant military difference.