

*External Affairs*

has been described to us as being by those who asked the emergency powers in the earlier part of the session.

Time is the most precious thing there is in Canada today—far more precious at the moment than metals, wood, machines of war or even men. Yet, time is being tossed around as though we had so much of it that it did not matter. The postponement of decisions that affect the life of every Canadian, and pretending it is not safe for people to know what the facts really are, is a sorry reflection to free men and women on their capacity to maintain the vigour and full power of democracy.

It does not seem that we in Canada have yet recognized in all its implications the full extent of the change which has taken place in Canada's relationship to the rest of the world. The old position of diplomacy was very different from that which it occupies today. The man who is still generally regarded as the greatest writer on military affairs, Clausewitz, was merely restating an ancient military maxim when he said that a shooting war is merely an extension of foreign policy.

That statement was made when there were only a few very restricted international alliances, and most of the nations in fact carried on their affairs by themselves, shifting their position from day to day, trying to follow a somewhat uncertain course, but always with the hope of preserving peace—unless they were one of the few aggressor nations which have emerged in history from time to time.

In very large measure it was the absence of any clearly stated course, any clearly defined undertakings, which were responsible for the outbreak of the first world war in 1914 and the second world war in 1939. There is reason, and good reason, to believe that if in 1914 Germany had been convinced that an attack on Belgium, Holland and France would have brought together a great world partnership of nations in arms, the attack would never have been launched in the first place. And there is equally good reason to believe, without much doubt, that if Germany had known that an attack on Poland in 1939 would ultimately have brought together the United Kingdom, France, the United States and most of the nations of the western world, that attack might never have been launched or even contemplated. It has in fact been commonly stated over and over again that both the first world war and the second world war were avoidable and could in fact have been avoided if the democracies first of all had

been sufficiently armed and, secondly, had left no doubt whatever that they would act to prevent aggression.

The primary purpose of the formation of the United Nations organization was to bring together all nations who wished to preserve peace in a great international partnership which would carry forward the same ideals but avoid the weaknesses of the league of nations. This time there was to be no doubt; there was to be positive action to deal with aggression, and the thing that was going to preserve peace was the certainty that an aggressor would face the combined strength of those nations which believed in peace.

That was the core; that was the spirit; that was intended to be the driving power behind the United Nations. The hope of finally bringing to an end the age-long nightmare of recurring wars lies in the acceptance of that principle.

Two world wars in one generation carry to the minds of all human beings some realization that scientific advances have brought within measurable reach the destruction of civilization itself, unless further world wars can be avoided. This has brought us to the position in which we find ourselves today. For the very first time in history, Canadians are committed in advance to active participation in whatever combined effort is necessary to preserve the freedom of western Europe and prevent Russian aggression. Under the North Atlantic pact that commitment has been made, with the full knowledge of the Canadian people, and with the almost unanimous approval of members of the House of Commons.

It is however necessary for us to remember that Canada's active participation in the Korean war, and Canada's participation in the united effort of the Atlantic nations to prevent a war in Europe, are two different forms of commitment.

There was no commitment in advance so far as Korea was concerned, except the general acceptance of the obligations set out in the charter of the United Nations. When the communist army in North Korea suddenly launched its unprovoked attack under Russian direction on June 25 last year, it was necessary for the United Nations represented on the security council to make a decision as to what was to be done. That decision was made; and it was a result of that decision relating to the specific act of aggression in Korea which has resulted in Canada's participation in the efforts of the United Nations to preserve the freedom of Korea and deal with this act of naked aggression. Because of the fact that the Korean war raises special issues and that the action of the United