

But the danger to the free world is still greatest in Western Europe itself. Recognition of that fact was the reason for the signing of the North Atlantic Pact in the spring of 1949. Since that time progress has been made in increasing the military strength of the countries associated in that pact; but this progress, although it is being accelerated, has not been swift enough to remove anxiety. Western Europe is still relatively weak, and still stands open to Soviet conquest. It is a glittering prize. Its capture would put the Soviet Union in possession not only of the source and centre of western civilization, but also of industrial capacity which would enable them to rival the productive resources of the whole of the western hemisphere. We over here would then be in a desperate position indeed.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that our involvement in other areas of the world should not prevent us from recognizing that Western Europe is the key point for the defence of the whole of the free world--which includes, incidentally, India and Pakistan as well as Canada and the United States; and we should co-operate with our allies in the North Atlantic Treaty in building up forces large enough to deter the Soviet Union from launching an attack in that area.

We in Canada hope and believe that the North Atlantic Treaty, founded as it is on the common values of our common civilization, will also grow into something far deeper than any military alliance--into an enduring association among nations which share the same aims and the same aspirations. We in Canada are making, and will make, the best contribution we can to that end, and we are encouraged in that resolve by developments of the last two or three months.

Hon. members will have had an opportunity of reading the statement of General Eisenhower before Congress yesterday on the subject of North Atlantic preparedness, and the efforts which are being made and still greater efforts which will be required to build up our defensive alliance against any threat of aggression. So far as Western Europe is concerned--and this, I repeat, is the most vital area in the front line of our defence--the effort required is partly military and partly, in the broader sense of the term, political. The free nations of Europe are profoundly aware that their future security and prosperity depend in large measure on the unity which they can achieve among themselves. In this development French statesmanship is playing a great part. indeed, under the wise leadership of Prime Minister Plevin, whom we delight to honour in our assembly today.

If there were not other reasons for pressing ahead with these policies of European unification, the problem of Germany itself would make imperative the need for some form of European unity. If democratic Germany is to play her constructive part in a free Europe, it is essential that she should do so within the framework of a freely co-operative Europe coming closer together, economically, politically and militarily.

The present state of the European continent is, as we all know, one of tragic division. The lines which Soviet aggressive policies have drawn across the continent