

"The Canadian Government has been giving careful study to the question of North Atlantic security. Canada's representatives have been participating from the beginning in the conversations which have been taking place in Washington since July 6 between representatives of Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. These conversations were informal, non-committal and exploratory. Some weeks ago they reached the point where it was agreed that it would be desirable to refer the problems which had been raised back to the respective governments for their observations and comments.

"As a result of its study of the question, the Canadian Government recently informed the other participants in the Washington discussions that Canada is now ready to enter into negotiations for a regional treaty for collective security with them and with other North Atlantic states.

"The general lines both of the North Atlantic treaty desired by Canada and also of the implications to Canada of such a treaty have been made clear in public statements made during the past ten months by Mr. King, Mr. St. Laurent, Mr. Claxton and myself.

"The informal conversations in Washington have reached the end of the first stage of discussions. Any treaty in which Canada might join will be submitted to Parliament for approval."

Previous Statements

Following are excerpts from statements made by the Canadian Government on the proposed North Atlantic treaty from January 20, 1948, to October 25, 1948, inclusive:

On January 20, 1948, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King in a speech in Ottawa, said:

"So long as Communism remains a menace to the free world, it is vital to the defence of freedom to maintain a preponderance of military strength on the side of freedom, and to ensure that degree of unity among the nations which will ensure that they cannot be defeated and destroyed one by one."

On the day the Brussels Treaty was signed, (March 17, 1948), the Prime Minister said in the House of Commons:

"This pact is far more than an alliance of the old kind. It is a partial realization of the idea of collective security by an arrangement made under the Charter of the United Nations. As such, it is a step towards peace, which may well be followed by other similar steps until there is built up an association of all free states which are willing to accept responsibilities of mutual assistance to prevent aggression and preserve peace. . . .

"The Canadian Government has been closely following recent developments in the international sphere. The peoples of all free countries may be assured that Canada will play her full part in every movement to give substance to the conception of an effective system of collective security by the development of regional pacts under the Charter of the United Nations."

In the House of Commons on April 29, 1948, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. S. St. Laurent, said that the free nations of the world or some of them might soon find it necessary to consult together on how best to establish a collective security league composed of states which were willing to accept more specific and onerous obligations than those contained in the Charter of the United Nations, in return for greater national security than the United Nations could now give its members. He went on to say that such a collective security league might grow out of the plans for Western Union now maturing in Europe and that its purpose would not be purely negative but that it would have the positive purpose of creating the dynamic counter-attraction to communism of a free, prosperous and progressive society. He concluded by saying that he was sure that it was the desire of the people of Canada that Canada should play its full part in creating and maintaining on the side of peace an "overwhelming preponderance of moral, economic and military force and the necessary unity for its effective use".

On June 11, 1948, speaking in Toronto, Mr. St. Laurent said:

"Six weeks ago, speaking in the House of Commons, I said that the free nations, or some of them, might soon find it necessary to consult together on how best to establish a new collective security league under Article 51 of the Charter. I said that Canada should