

It does mean that so long as this ideal is not realized, they see the necessity of providing for their own security by means of regional pacts. The Charter itself provides for the establishment of such pacts.

You all know that, several months ago, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, signed the Treaty of Brussels. The purpose of this Treaty was to assure the closest co-operation between these members of the Western Union - co-operation which is to be political and economic as well as military. All the nations which signed the Brussels Pact were weakened by the last war. By themselves alone these European nations are not able to ensure the maintenance of peace. For that matter, the United States and Canada alone are not able to do so either. The very least that is necessary is that the nations of the Western Union and of North America shall join together in an effective system of collective security.

For several months, representatives of Canada, the United States and the nations which signed the Brussels Treaty have been discussing the basis of a North Atlantic Regional Security Pact. As a result of these discussions, we are now ready to begin the actual negotiation of such a Treaty and I sincerely hope these negotiations will be successful. When a Treaty is concluded it will be for our Parliament to decide whether Canada is to accept it or to reject it. Everyone, I believe, will agree that our geographical situation, our historic ties, our material well-being, and, above all, our national security, make it imperative for Canada to take an appropriate place in this Atlantic community.

The establishment of international peace and security is the greatest problem we face today. It is Canada's first concern in world affairs. For my part, I believe that the most certain and the most practical approach to security for us is the achievement, as soon as possible, of an alliance of the North Atlantic nations. It is not enough to have right on our side; it is just as important to have the strength to defend the right. The only way to achieve that strength is for us and the other North Atlantic nations to combine our resources. We know only too well where isolationism leads. The last war proved conclusively that isolationism is no guarantee of security. True, one or two small countries were able to maintain their neutrality and yet survive, but we know that was only because of the Allied victory. If the other free nations had not won the war, the few neutral states would soon have come under the Nazi yoke. The choice we face today is a choice between isolationism with its certain weakness, and the hope, through collective action, of preventing another war. I consider it is my duty to make the utmost effort, both within Canada and in our negotiations with the other governments concerned, to have a system of collective security firmly established. We do not want a third world war. Let us all do everything we can to prevent it.

As you know, I have just returned from London where I took Mr. King's place at the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. I am happy to be able to say that all the nations of the Commonwealth found themselves in agreement on a great number of questions of common interest. In particular, the nations of the Commonwealth were all agreed on their combined support for the United Nations. They all hope that one day all the nations of the world will reach an understanding with one another and will come to work together to assure all men, not only peace and security,