

North Atlantic Treaty

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but he has exhausted his time.

Mr. Bradette: Will you allow me five minutes more?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has the unanimous consent of the house.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Bradette: I thank the members of the house, and I will not abuse their generosity. This is what he had to say:

"There is no country in Europe in the affairs of which foreigners can interfere with so little advantage as in those of Spain. There is no country in which foreigners are so much disliked, and even despised, and whose manners and habits are so little congenial with those of the other nations in Europe."

More and more, people here, as everywhere else in the world, desire to avoid war, but we have the realism to perceive when neutrality becomes impossible. All persons who are enlightened on the present international situation regret to hear, still, many sophisticated speeches in favour of neutrality, because they know perfectly well that this is the attitude that gives impetus and encouragement to Stalin to prepare an ideological, economical and military invasion of the world, profiting by the political divisions that exist in the midst of democratic nations.

The only possible way to defeat communist Russia is to demonstrate to her that the nations which so far have escaped her deadly embrace have decided to unite, in a league such as the Atlantic pact, as an efficacious protection against her. Only the adoption of such an attitude could inspire in Stalin an apprehension that would be for him the beginning of wisdom.

In my opinion, no one could reject this treaty now in preparation. It is certainly a most commendable one on all points. Its only aim is to maintain world peace within the framework of established international organizations against a war of aggression. It is a temporary measure that must be created as long as the present international institutions cannot function in a manner that will assure a pacific solution of the differences between nations.

I shall soon be finished. In an allocution delivered by His Holiness Pope Pius XII last Christmas, we find propounded the principles which justify the present treaty under discussion. Its first aim is a condemnation against any war of aggression. His Holiness said:

All war of aggression is a sin, a crime and an outrage against the majesty of God and the orderer of the world.

It is equally the affirmation of the duty of solidarity of nations in the case when one of

them is the victim of an unjust aggression. On that subject His Holiness said:

A nation already menaced by an unjust aggression, or which is already its victim, cannot remain passively indifferent, if it wishes to think and behave as it is proper to Christians; with all the more reason, the solidarity of the family of nations forbids to others to comport themselves as simple spectators in an attitude of apathetical neutrality.

According to Pius XII such an indifference toward any war of aggression, which is totally foreign to the Christian spirit, has resulted only to encourage the fomenters of aggression, while it compelled the many nations left to themselves to continuously increase their armaments. The collectivity of nations has the obligation and the duty not to abandon a nation unjustly attacked, and the certitude that this duty will be met will serve to discourage the aggressor or, if the worst happens, its sufferings will be at least diminished.

Mr. Knowles: Will the hon. member permit a question? Would the hon. member say that Spain, under its present government, is in a position to further the principles of this treaty? I refer to article 10 of the pact. In other words, would the member say that under the present government of Spain she should be invited to join the pact?

Mr. Coldwell: As a democratic nation.

Mr. Bradette: I prefaced that statement by saying that, within the United Nations organization membership at the present time, there are many nations that are not in a better position democratically than Spain is at the present time, but yet they are active members of the United Nations organization.

Mr. Knowles: That is not an answer to my question.

Mr. Georges H. Heon (Argenteuil): Mr. Speaker, there is now before this house the text of a proposed pact officially designated as the North Atlantic security pact, slated for signature by our duly accredited mandataries during the first week of April next in Washington. We are asked, as elected representatives of the people, to express our approval thereof. In seeking the approval of the house prior to affixing its signature, the government is acting strictly as it should if we are to remain an active Christian democracy instead of becoming a totalitarian state. We could not honestly bind ourselves to safeguard "the freedom, common heritage and civilization" of the peoples participating in the treaty and "the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law" invoked in the preamble to the pact, unless we observed them in our midst.

Briefly the signatories to the treaty express therein their faith in the purpose and prin-