

We are all of us bound under the Charter to refrain from using armed forces except as provided for by the Charter. The Government and people of Canada are anxious to know what armed forces, in common with other members of the United Nations, Canada should maintain as our share of the burden of putting world force behind world law. It is only when the special agreements with the Council have been concluded that we will be able to determine how large a proportion of the total annual production of our country can properly be devoted to improving the living conditions of the Canadian people. Canada therefore urges that the Security Council and the Military Staff Committee go ahead with all possible steps in the constructive work of negotiating the special agreements and of organizing the military and economic measures of enforcement."

20. Although this statement was made nearly two years ago, the Military Staff Committee has made no further progress. Canada is not a member of the Military Staff Committee (as the latter consists only of the five permanent members of the Security Council) and so does not have first-hand information of the disagreements which have led to the present deadlock. However, it is common knowledge that these disagreements largely concern the size and composition of the United Nations forces, the contributions which should be made by each state, particularly the "Big Five," the location of the United Nations forces and their right of access to the military bases of member nations. It is evident that four of the five permanent members have for some time reached general agreement between themselves on the fundamental principles in this field; and that the failure of the Military Staff Committee to progress in its work is due very largely to the fact that the Soviet Union has consistently disagreed with the position taken by the other four permanent members.

(d) Regional Pacts for Collective Self-Defence under Article 51 of the Charter

21. To sum up, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Commission for Conventional Armaments and the Military Staff Committee have not reached any final agreement on the subjects within their respective mandates. In view of this disagreement, it is not surprising that now, three years after the San Francisco Conference, member nations are exploring other methods by which they might achieve mutual collective security. Canada's position regarding Article 51 of the Charter which begins with the words "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence" follows.

22. The position of the Canadian Government on this matter was made clear by the Prime Minister on March 17, 1948, when he commented on the Brussels Five-Power Treaty. He then said: "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."