

I know that during the last conflict, hundreds of thousands of Canadians have had either a husband, a son or a brother engaged in the armed forces, and that they do not wish the tragedy of these last years to repeat itself. There is nothing that our fathers and mothers desire more than the preservation of peace.

The Canadian people are not warlike. They have never sought war and I am convinced that they will never seek it. We cannot live shut off from the rest of the world. I need not tell you that, on account of the systematic obstruction by a great power, added to its ill-will and frantic ambitions, it cannot be said that there is security in the world today. The international situation is not desperate but it is undoubtedly serious.

Of course war is avoidable and I am convinced that if we pursue the firm policy which is ours, at present, we shall avoid war. We would show a lack of the most elementary realism were we to consider it an impossibility. Let us pray that war be spared by Providence to the men and women of our generation and of many more generations to come. Let us not forget however the wisdom of the old saying: "God helps those who help themselves".

Faced with this growing insecurity, all nations who are anxious to preserve peace and safeguard their democratic and Christian institutions are bound to take together the measures which are essential to avert the growing menace of totalitarian and imperialistic communism. The Christian nations have not lost hope of seeing, some day, the triumph of the universal principles of the San Francisco Charter. But they are all conscious of the necessity for them, until these ideals finally materialize, to ensure their security through the conclusion of regional pacts such as the North Atlantic Pact.

As far as I am concerned, I am convinced that the best and most practical means of preserving the peace is to achieve union between all peace-loving nations as soon as possible.

It is not enough to have right on our side; we must also have the necessary strength to ensure that it is respected. Only union can provide us with the required strength. Because I am convinced of that, I deem it my duty to spare no effort, with my fellow-countrymen as well as with the governments concerned, to obtain the early establishment of such a system of alliances.

We do not want a third world war. We wish to go on living in peace with those who are dear to us. We must do everything to avoid a new catastrophe.

You all know that Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg have signed the Brussels Treaty. You know that the Brussels Treaty is a guarantee for these members of the Western Union, of the closest political, economic and military co-operation. These European nations, weakened by the last war, are no more able to ensure by themselves their own security and the preservation of international peace than the United States or Canada alone. This is why it is important to achieve union of all these nations as soon as possible through a powerful system of collective security.

In that spirit, representatives of Canada, the United States and the Western Union countries have already been studying for several months the possible terms of a North Atlantic Security Pact.

I hope that these talks, now taking place in a cordial atmosphere will bring about the negotiation of a treaty. Once its clauses have been defined, the Canadian Parliament, as far as our country is concerned, will be called upon to accept or reject them. You will