

*NATO—European Defence Community*

who have read the history of those days just after the last war will realize that many insurmountable difficulties were encountered by the free powers at the time in trying to arrive at an agreement for unifying, and making peace with, Germany as a whole. We realize that they did not want a peace treaty. What they want now is another opportunity to come before the world with the deceptive idea that they are trying to find a settlement of world issues. They want a new and important forum from which they can pour forth their propaganda in an effort to divide and distract the opinions of the peoples in democracies generally.

I have no doubt that with those experiences before them the United States, Britain and France have hesitated, as they should hesitate, to give the Soviet another opportunity of spreading across the world that kind of talk and that kind of deception under the guise of wanting another German peace treaty. I think in this country we ought to be careful in taking any stand that would indicate that we have any hesitancy. That is one reason why we have been supporting so fully the government's position with respect to this NATO protocol.

I know it may be said that in a sense this country is putting the cart before the horse by dealing with this matter before the agreement between the occupying powers and Germany may have been concluded and before the European defence community agreement may have been ratified. That may be; but I believe that in view of the fact that parliament is about to prorogue shortly we ought not to be in the position of adding fuel to a fire that seems to have been kindled in certain parts of Europe and elsewhere by even those who perhaps mean well but whose position I think is wrongly taken at this time.

For that reason I think it would be a black eye to Canada to delay in any way our ratification, particularly in view of the fact that parliament may not meet for many months to come. I am quite sure that we would not want to come back to a special session to deal with this matter alone. I think perhaps in dealing with the question of the ratification of this NATO proposal we have to bear in mind one particular thing; that is the importance I think of our first of all having unity among the free powers and, secondly, indicating to that part of the world which is behind the iron curtain that we have that unity and that we have the strength necessary to carry out our defence of the peace at this time.

First of all it is important that we have unity. Second, it is important that our unity be supported by strength. Viscount Alexander

of Tunis, whom I regard as one of the great military men and statesmen of the free world today, a man who has the faculty of being able to put his points of view in simple, clear and understandable terms, has come about as close as possible to the position which I think the parliament of Canada should take with respect to the NATO protocol. In yesterday's newspapers a report appeared of what defence minister Earl Alexander of Britain had to say at Seoul in Korea. He dealt first with the question of whether or not he believed a third world war was in the offing. The report reads as follows:

Of the possibility of another major war Alexander said at a press conference: "No, no . . . We are no nearer to it than a little while ago. There is only one way to prevent it. That's for the United Nations to get together and resist aggression and let the other side know that's what they're doing."

From these few words I think this country might very well take its policy with respect to this and other matters having to do with the very important question of the peace of the world today. With regard to the situation in East and West Germany, it is very interesting indeed to hear the Soviets, with their honeyed words, attempting to attract the German people at this time, but in the Potsdam declaration, which was one of the basic documents in respect of proposals for peace and the unification of Germany, one finds certain words which I think go to the root of some of the difficulties with which NATO and the occupying forces in Europe are faced at this critical time. Among other things the Potsdam declaration contained the following:

So far as is practicable there shall be uniformity of treatment of the German population throughout Germany.

In other words, pending a peace treaty to unify the country there was to be similarity and uniformity of treatment of all Germans. But that did not happen and because it did not happen the Soviets must bear a very heavy responsibility so far as the present situation is concerned. While the occupation troops of the three occupying powers were attempting to carry out the policy of the Potsdam declaration in West Germany the Soviets were at the same time re-arming East Germany. It is all very well to say that they were not arming in divisions or in ordinary troop formations but they were arming in a more subtle and deceptive way. They were arming under the guise of creating security police or constabulary in that part of the world.

In addition, not only were they doing that but they were also attempting to cement into East Germany the most insidious network of communism in all its political, social and economic forms. Was that treating Germany uniformly in accordance with the Potsdam