

QUESTION: Canada is also a Pacific power. Would you suggest a collective security organization in which Pacific and Asian countries could participate and support it?

ANSWER: The question has not come before us for decision as to whether or not we should be parties to a Pacific security pact. And under present conditions it wouldn't be possible for us to make to a Pacific security pact the specific commitments of so much on such and such a date that we have made to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. But we are, as you say, a country that extends from sea to sea and we are having increasing relations with the countries in the Pacific area. But we haven't been invited to form part of this arrangement worked out between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, and we haven't sought an invitation, and we haven't had to consider what we would say had one come forth.

QUESTION: Do you approve of the idea in principle?

ANSWER: Well, I would not be in a position to say that I have given that sufficient consideration to be able to go to the people of Canada and say to them, "I think that your security depends upon this being done." I was able to do that with respect to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and I would not go to the people and make an assertion that was not based upon convictions of my own arrived at from sufficient study.

QUESTION: You said just now that you had the impression or the belief that you had to enter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to get security for your country.

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: Is it your impression that India at least doesn't believe in the principle of achieving collective security through arms or through armed strength?

ANSWER: Well I do not know that India has expressed any views about what it was proper to do in the North Atlantic Treaty area. India has, through its responsible government, come to the conclusion that for India it was preferable not to make any commitments. We came to the conclusion that for us in our part of the world it was desirable to make commitments and it was desirable to assert beforehand that if aggression started against any one of us, we were, as we were in the last two world wars, disposed to join together to repel that aggression. The Kaiser had not been told before 1914 that if he started a war all those who ultimately joined up against him would do so. And Hitler and Mussolini had not been told before 1939 that if they started anything all those who joined together to prevent them from succeeding would do so. Well with that experience we felt that it was desirable this time that if anyone now starts something we are all going to be together and that he should not start anything unless he feels he can overcome us all.