

*North Atlantic Treaty*

I should think that at this time, when we are all hoping that the efforts that are being made may preserve peace and the freedom to pursue our own democratic way of life, it is particularly significant that Greece should be joined in this endeavour.

There is in addition to this the fact that the people of Greece have demonstrated their willingness to make great sacrifices in the cause to which we are now all committed. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) said this morning, the approval of this arrangement by the governments of all the nations joined in this organization would mean that an attack on either Greece or Turkey would immediately meet with the military response implicit in the North Atlantic treaty agreements. Greece has already within her own borders faced the communist beast. I think every one of us here can say with deep sincerity: Thank God they won. They overcame communist forces, trained, organized and supported from across their borders under the direction of Moscow. They have shown what free men can do against these evil forces. Therefore I think there should be in the heart and mind of each of us a feeling of gratitude and rejoicing that they will be associated with us in this supreme responsibility.

Glorious Greece, with a proud history of the past, now marching side by side with the western democracies, can have reason to hope for the glories which will come through the opportunities that are being opened to nations without great resources by the scientific achievements of the past few years, particularly through the peaceful employment of atomic power which may completely change the lives of many countries which have found things extremely difficult through inability to meet the requirements of modern industrial needs.

May I turn for a moment to Turkey, which country has been magnificent both in victory and in defeat. As has been said by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell), all who have had occasion to meet them as enemies regarded them not only as men of great courage but also as men of chivalry and decent instincts which bring them in spirit within the community of the western world. After the first world war Turkey became the friend of the western democracies and since that time has marched side by side with the western nations in the effort to preserve the freedom of nations of different historical backgrounds and of different religious beliefs, but all sharing one common conviction, that it is only through freedom, that it is only through the preservation of self-government

against the threat of communism that we can hope to advance the welfare of the peoples of these countries.

Turkey has shown, as did Greece, a willingness to fight the threat with which we are all confronted in differing degrees. While Turkey did not actually find it necessary to engage in mortal combat with communist forces, as did Greece, nevertheless it was the firmness of Turkey and only that firmness that held back the Russian forces from her borders at the time the northern provinces of Turkey were threatened only a few years ago. Turkey has the distinction of being both a European and an Asiatic nation. On both sides of the Dardanelles it extends to and is in contact with Asia. To the west of the Dardanelles it extends to and is in contact with Europe. Above all, however, it is the buffer in the Mediterranean area between the threat of the physical forces of communist Russia and western civilization. They have already shown the mettle of which they are made. I think we all have reason for satisfaction and confidence when we know that Turkey will be closely associated with us in this common undertaking. I am sure we will assist in every way we can to build up the strength of that great eastern bulwark in the Mediterranean so they may have the physical means to make their courage a strong deterrent to any efforts that might be thought of in the Kremlin, to any idea of repeating the adventure which brought the western world into war with Russia nearly one hundred years ago.

We should not forget that the reason Britain and France fought in the Crimea was the threat to Turkey. I hope the men of the Kremlin will not forget that the western world came to Turkey's defence before and that under an agreement of this nature the men of the western world, in much larger numbers, will come to Turkey's defence if necessary and with greater speed than on that former occasion.

I feel sure that all hon. members agree with what was said by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) that uncertainty is the greatest encouragement to the possibility of war. There is every reason to believe that had there been such a firm undertaking as now exists between the nations of the north Atlantic community there would have been no war in 1914 or in 1939, and that millions of human beings who were slaughtered in those conflicts might have been spared to pursue the peaceful course of their lives. If there is above anything else one clear and shining lesson to be gained from those two wars it is that a clear understanding