

only to protect our free institutions by arms but to strengthen them by more positive means.

We can be confident that, if we remain united and at the same time prepared to explore every possible means of reducing international tension, NATO, as a supplement to the United Nations, will continue to be a decisive factor in preventing aggression and in attaining that goal of world peace which we all so ardently desire.

Statement by Mr. Pearson

It is not very often that I get the opportunity to celebrate a birthday with my colleagues, the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence, especially the birthday of a five-year-old. Today NATO - the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - is five years old. Compared to the normal span of human life, of course, or to the life of most of our democratic institutions, that is no age at all. Yet NATO already has some sizable and impressive accomplishments to its credit.

It has been a most important factor in preventing aggression in Europe. It has been instrumental in reducing international tension. And it has developed a close working relationship among its members which has added tremendously to the unity and solidarity of the Atlantic community.

NATO was created when it became clear that the United Nations was being deliberately prevented by Soviet intransigence from establishing a system of universal collective security. Our Prime Minister was one of the first to foresee that those like-minded nations of the free world whose very existence was in danger would have to take special collective measures under the U.N. Charter to maintain peace. In 1947 he said before the General Assembly that nations might be forced to seek greater safety "in an association of democratic, peace-loving states willing to accept more specific international obligations in return for a greater measure of national security".

There have been changes in Soviet tactics - since the day when we signed the NATO agreement for collective security. But there is as yet no convincing evidence - I hope that one day there may be - that the objectives of objectives of the Soviet Government do not remain basically hostile to the free world.

Today the threat to the peace that brought NATO into being may not seem so imminent, but the role that our coalition can play is, if anything, more vital than ever before. The Atlantic Pact must create conditions for the kind of co-operation which goes beyond the present emergency. As the Prime Minister said recently "our very survival and our continued development in freedom and in peace depend upon our ability to look beyond national barriers". Therefore we must move towards closer and closer co-operation within the larger framework of the North Atlantic community.

In this age, when science has reduced our world to a neighbourhood and has also given us the power to destroy each other, NATO offers an invaluable instrument for continuing consultation and co-ordination of policies on questions that might mean life or death.