

*North Atlantic Treaty*

3. To maintain their individual and collective military capacity to resist armed attack.

Those undertakings are explicit and require little amplification at this time. They are, however, an essential part of this pact which should not now nor in the future be overlooked or disregarded by those charged with the administrative responsibility for implementing its terms. Those who discuss the means by which the written terms will be fulfilled should also bear in mind that soviet expansion has not been achieved in most cases by open military aggression, but through the success of treacherous internal fifth columns in those nations they have overcome. For that reason the suppression of internal treachery of this nature is inseparably associated with any broad plans for the defence of our freedom and security.

It will be possible to discuss the military, economic and other implications of this pact at another time when it comes before us in final form for ratification. On this occasion I hope that this house, and the parliament of Canada, will speak with one clear and ringing voice. May I add that to some extent the positive nature of our assertions in regard to this pact from every part of the house, and the promptness with which we express our approval, may well have a very marked effect upon those whose minds we hope will be influenced by what we do. The adoption of the resolution amounts to a statement on behalf of Canada that we Canadians are prepared to join with the other free nations of Europe and North America for collective action in any event, and particularly at this moment to stem the tide of soviet aggression.

In taking this course I think we should make it clear that we have no hatred in our hearts for the people of Russia, and that we are not ranging ourselves against them or the people of the nations which they have enslaved. On the contrary. By standing firmly together in a strong and determined partnership of free people, we not only unite to protect ourselves but by the very unity of our purpose and the example we offer, we hold forth hope to those in Russia, and the other enslaved lands, whose valour in the defence of their own soil has so richly earned for them the priceless boon of freedom and democracy.

Underlying this pact is the simple but vital principle that freedom is not divisible and that, in defending the freedom of those nations which are now free, we also hope that in God's good time the example offered by the free nations may encourage those who are now enslaved to find freedom for themselves.

Those who meet in Washington next week will represent the sentiment of the free nations of the whole North Atlantic community. The purpose of this pact is to adopt practical measures which will hold high that torch which has been passed on to us by those who have paid the full and final price of freedom. By our vote here today let us tell the world that the people of Canada will follow that bright torch through the years ahead with faith, with courage and the hope of peace and freedom for all mankind. If the pact succeeds in fulfilling the high purpose it is intended to serve, this may well be regarded in the future as freedom's crowning hour.

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart):** Mr. Speaker, this is an important debate, not only because we are giving some guidance to the delegates who will agree to a draft treaty on behalf of Canada in a short time, but also from the point of view of the records of the house, and from that of informing the people of Canada regarding this important North Atlantic treaty so that they may understand the reasons for it, and why it is before us at this time.

The resolution before the house is a very clear and simple one. First it declares anew the support of Canada for the United Nations, and reaffirms our faith in the principles and purposes of the United Nations charter. Secondly it recognizes the proposed North Atlantic pact as a treaty within the meaning of article 51 of the charter, which provides for regional co-operation for the preservation of peace, and for political, social and economic co-operation among nations. In the third place, our approval of the resolution will signify agreement that Canada should be represented at the conference for the completion of an acceptable treaty based on the proposed text. In the fourth place, it recognizes that any treaty which is there approved shall be placed before parliament for final approval and ratification. In other words, the adoption of the resolution now before us gives authority to the government to negotiate, but reserves to parliament the right to make the final decision. That, I think is in complete accord with the best traditions of democratic procedure.

As has been said already, no new obligations are involved in this understanding. The obligations which are implicit in the document now before us are those we undertook when we signed the charter of the United Nations. But the object of the negotiations which have been in progress for some months now is to provide democratic nations with an alternative form of collective security within the orbit of the United Nations, but made necessary by the failure of the security