

NATO—European Defence Community

country. Therefore I feel there is no reason for delay in approving this protocol because such delay might be misinterpreted to mean that Canada was not anxious to carry out all her commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or from the point of view of the general desire to maintain the peace of the world. If we have wise statesmanship over the years I think we can ward off the fear that in the far distant future Germany might have aggressive designs against other European countries.

If we always keep before us the objective of the resolution, namely the ensuring of closer association of the countries of western Europe, then we can avoid that danger. We need not cherish the suspicions that exist at the present time because if there is closer association between the countries of western Europe, which can be brought about by wise statesmanship, the danger of future wars will recede.

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, sitting here today as one who is not a member of the external affairs committee but as one who is deeply interested in the subject before the house, it seems to me that hon. members are showing great discretion in the discussion of this matter. I wish to support the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) and the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes) in the attitude they have taken in favour of the resolution, though I think I can understand the motives at the back of the minds of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) and the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) in urging upon the minister that every precaution should be taken to see that we are not the first to deposit ratification. As the old saying goes, be not the last the old coat to take off nor yet the first the new one to put on. They do not want to see us rush to deposit ratification.

I listened to the hon. member for Peace River speak of the fears in his mind of the danger of a reorganized Germany. He was, I think, following somewhat in the footsteps of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan, who spoke about the nazis. It seems to me that these hon. members are not cognizant of the great change that has taken place in Western Germany and in Europe generally since the war. Fascism was overthrown not so much by war as by the will of the people concerned. The people did not want fascism. They did not want a tyranny over them. The people in post-war Germany did not want a tyranny over them. We have in both Italy and Germany today Christian democratic governments with which the western nations can easily work in harmony. It is because of

[Mr. Pearkes.]

the presence in Germany today of a Christian democratic government with a Christian prime minister that we are being asked to support the resolution.

I think we must recognize that Germany stands in the front line if there is any danger from Russia, and I am sure the hon. member for Peace River will recognize that the danger from Russia is greater than the danger from Germany at the present time. I do not think anybody can deny that. We know that the professed aim of the Russian government is world domination, as was the professed aim of Hitler and nazi Germany fifteen years ago. Russia came out of the war far greater and far stronger than Germany ever was. Russia gained far more territory than Hitler ever had in mind to gain. Therefore Russia is the real enemy, and it seems to me that the hon. member, looking at the reality of the situation and recognizing that however distasteful it may be to link up with a former enemy—not only link up but guarantee protection—will see this is the only thing we can do. We have to choose one way or the other. As the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes) says, we cannot leave the centre of Europe a vacuum. If we do the power of Russia will spread into Germany; and if we permitted German intelligence, manpower and industrial power to be added to the present power of Russia, then Russia would be invincible. If the power of Japan could be added to the power of China and Russia you would have the same situation in the east.

It is fortunate for the western countries that these European countries have the common culture and common traditions about which the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) speaks. They have a common Christian culture. It is fortunate for us today, too, that we have both Japan and Germany on the side of the western democracies, adopting the principles that we advocate as the most suitable form of government. Some hon. members may remember that nearly three years ago I said that we should have both Japan and Germany on our side. It is a blessing from the Almighty for which we ought to be thankful that these two nations are on our side and not with the Russians. The nazi government was a pagan government; the Russian government is a pagan government, and therefore, directly opposed to our traditions, the cultural ideas in our western democracies, and to our form of government which comes from respect for the individual, something which does not exist in Russia.

Germany is, as I say, in the first line of defence. If there is to be an attack Germany must meet it. To do so she must