

question of disarmament must be to achieve a maximum of disarmament and reduction of military forces which could be verified and controlled and which is compatible with the maintenance of adequate security against aggression. However, no one should underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead nor look for universal panaceas in the near future.

There is no intention on the part of the Canadian Government to let down the guard so far as Canada is concerned, but we do believe that a genuine effort should be made to work out some scheme of disarmament. If every nation on that 10-Member Committee feels the same way about it, then there will be results which will benefit mankind. This should not be taken as meaning that, if the five Eastern countries will only approach it sincerely, there will be worthwhile results. I mean all ten nations both on the Eastern side and the Western side. If they all genuinely want disarmament in the world today then there will be disarmament.

The second subject is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO is essentially a defensive alliance and it has fulfilled this function. After all it was set up to prevent aggression by the Eastern nations. Whether or not they would have committed aggression no one can say but there has been no aggression during these ten years. NATO continues fulfilling that same function today and must continue doing so until there is actual controlled disarmament.

Canada is doing her full share in the Alliance. We have a magnificent brigade of troops in Europe and we have a thoroughly efficient air division which next to the air forces of the United States is the most powerful and effective air force in the NATO organization today.

Sometimes when I hear of the criticism of the Department of National Defence I think it would be worth-while for Canadians to recognize the fact that in peacetime Canada has abroad a permanent-force army. How difficult it is for any old soldier from the First World War to realize that. I think back to those days when my one ambition was to fulfil the terms of the song "When I get my civvy clothes on, Oh how happy I will be". I remember how everybody wanted to get out of Europe by the first boat and what a job it was to get them sorted out because everybody thought he should be on the first boat. The same thing was true of the Second War. We now have a permanent-force army and a permanent air force stationed in Europe. I repeat that Canada can hold her head high because of the contribution that is being made by her young men to the strength of NATO.

There is in that organization a spirit of comradeship built up over the last ten years which is very strong. These fifteen nations understand each other's viewpoint. There have been friendships made which will last for a lifetime. The leaders of all these countries are on the very best of terms and fundamentally the foundations of NATO go very deep. I do not believe there is any chance of the NATO Alliance breaking up.