

the maintenance and the preservation of peace. Those of us who have responsibilities would like to do that which we are often asked to do, go into detail in regard to matters, when if we did that the result would be to deny that freedom of consultation which is of the essence of the relationship that must prevail among the free nations.

#### What is Owed to NATO

My opinion, and I think the attitude of the House, has been that this is an hour which demands moral strength and courage. Panic is the refuge of weakness. Confidence can be a weapon of peace. Communism breeds on fear and weakness. When I hear criticism of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization I sometimes wonder whether those who criticize realize that if it had not been for the defensive strength of NATO we might very well not be here today. That is how important NATO has been as a defensive organization, and how necessary it is today.

The ideals of democracy and peace in my opinion can best be served at this hour by showing the Kremlin that we will not sit back and allow the world in which we believe to be swept aside by the acceptance of those things that deny every principle of freedom for which we stand. We must at the same time speak words of measured carefulness so that nothing will be said which will add to the fires which today are burning.

...In the past two days, the House has maintained that principle, that each and all of us have to speak and must speak our views. That is the essence of democracy. Some of us will have to go back on some of the views that we have expressed in the past. That is of the essence of democracy too. Though I do not often do so, I speak now of a colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and of the contribution he has made since assuming that office, a contribution outstanding and worthy of the sacrifice made by those of his generation who served with him in the First War. He believed in the United Nations, and in the United Nations and outside he built a structure of peace with disarmament. He carried the fight in the United Nations and at Geneva. That is why his speech the other day to me carried the conviction that comes from one who is speaking with the experience that he has had.

#### No Retreat from Idealism

I see that some say he retreated. There is no retreat when one acknowledges that the idealism that he has expressed has not been accepted, and has been interpreted by the Kremlin and those associated with the Kremlin as a sign of weakness rather than of greatness. Some say he is too idealistic. Idealism has its place..., and if the free world sacrifices its idealism to godless materialism there will be little to choose between Communism and democracy in 50 years, whatever the result may be of the world contest. With all his heart, with all his devotion to the principle of disarmament, and with all his hopefulness that the clouds on the international horizon would be dissipated, in the light of recognition of the terrible danger of a nuclear war he told the House that we in the free world were on the threshold of potential world disaster.