

*North Atlantic Treaty*

under discussion, Mr. Churchill made the astounding statement—astounding to many of us—when, in referring to Mr. Aneurin Bevan, he said that the hon. member was right, with wrong reasons, for the attitude he took prior to the election in regard to British rearmament.

It seems to me we have been too interested in promoting rearmament without realizing that we must reinforce anything we do in that field with sound economic aid to our allies. To a degree, the same applies to our own country. We know perfectly well that the inflation we are undergoing at the present time is due to the tremendous amount of money we are spending on armaments. We must beware lest in doing this we undermine not only our economy but the support of the people for the defence project to which we are committed.

I wish to say immediately that I am not suggesting for one moment that we do not need to be properly armed for the defence of western democracy. What I am saying is that we must beware, lest in supporting rearmament under NATO we overlook some other factors which are at least equally important.

Hence I say once again that I hope our government—and from what I have been able to read from time to time I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) has said this over and over again—realizes that we must do all we can to make article II of the treaty effective, and to give all the economic aid within our power.

I hope that what the minister says publicly to our people in Canada he drives home in confidential meetings that take place in Rome—or, in the next month, in Lisbon—and elsewhere. I am sure that if we are going to meet the threat of communism and totalitarianism all across the world, the final decision will not be made on the field of battle. I believe the fact that we are stronger today militarily has eased the tension. But that tension may be renewed at any time. The great thing we have always to remember is that totalitarian communism can be met only by removing the causes that give an opportunity for communism to grow and to make headway in the world.

The emphasis for a while on guns, tanks, planes, armies, navies and air forces may have been essential; but I do think we should look carefully into those other important factors that in the long run will mean either success or failure of world communist propagand.

I have just been reading a most interesting book by Mr. Justice Douglas of the Supreme

[Mr. Coldwell.]

Court of the United States. This book, "Strange Lands and Friendly People", it is called, contains a most interesting story of his travels in the Near and Middle East during the last two summers. It is a most revealing story, and one which I think holds a great lesson for us at the present time.

It may be true that collective security may be strengthened through this protocol; but on the other hand we are undertaking obligations in that protocol—and obligations in a part of the world where, after all, an explosive situation does today exist. This I suggest can be seen from recent events in Egypt and elsewhere.

The extensions of the obligations, as the minister said, are of course territorial rather than military or political. But they are extensions in an area which, to say the least, is explosive. And of course this is quite a reversal of the pre-war policy when we had no commitments whatsoever and parliament was said to be able to decide on what should be done when a situation arose.

The probability is that while many of us were inclined to support that policy prior to the second world war, that aggression and war brought home to us the necessity of the freedom-loving nations standing together after the war in order to prevent aggression wherever it might occur or threaten again in the future. I believe that more and more we have to associate with progressive elements wherever we can find them and with progressive countries wherever they may be established.

I just want to say in passing in connection with the part of the world involved in this protocol, Turkey and Greece, that in them and in the area adjacent to these countries are many millions of people living in squalor, in poverty, in misery and in want, particularly those in the Arab world. That is what makes this whole area explosive and revolutionary. There is the determination on the part of many peasants and ordinary depressed peoples in these countries to throw off the yoke of what they have looked upon, whether rightly or wrongly, as their imperialist oppressors. They want to govern themselves and raise their own standards of living.

As I say, I think we should associate ourselves with any elements in those countries which are promoting democratic methods and better standards of life and give them all the support we can. There is one small country in this area which has demonstrated that great progress can be made by democratic and progressive methods. Of course a new state of Israel comes immediately to mind. Anyone who has followed what has been happening in Israel must be amazed at