

We have to contemplate the possibility of aircraft at super-sonic speed; guided missiles of great range; of the application of virulent bacteriological and chemical poisons; and, most important, of atomic bombs of catastrophic power. We must realize that in the very near future these forms of bombardment may be rapidly followed up by considerable forces, airborne or seaborne in special types of vessels capable of landing on beaches without the use of established ports. Moreover these airborne and seaborne forces would be capable of operating with great effectiveness on the ground even in the face of the widespread destruction and contamination which will result from the long range, high explosive bacteriological, chemical, or atomic bombardment.

With the increased range of action and of speed in transit, continents today have already become the least geographical units on the basis on which questions of defence can properly be studied; consequently effective arrangements for the defence of the territory of one nation have become matters of vital concern to all other nations of that continent. Further, the particular anxieties which concern us from within the Iron Curtain require an extension of association in defence beyond the continent of North America to include both the nations of North America and of Western Europe in order that we may create an adequate balance or counterpoise.

Perhaps I might refer to this matter first because within the last few days the answer has been given in most convincing fashion in the Atlantic Pact through which our two nations will be brought into association with other nations of the North Atlantic Community in Western Europe.

Through the organization which this Treaty will provide we may expect that the democratic countries of Western Europe and of North America combined will be able to muster an overwhelming preponderance in military, economic and moral resources in opposition to any aggressor and we may hope that by the manifest intention of all concerned to make proper preparation for the discharge of the responsibilities they have assumed, there will be created an effective deterrent to any nation or group of nations who might be tempted to launch an armed attack against any of its signatories.

As the Prime Minister of Canada has said--

"This treaty is to preserve the peace of the world by making it clear to any aggressor that if he were so unwise as to resort to war he would be apt to finish with the Kaiser and Hitler and Mussolini.

"This treaty would bind together in an alliance against war the free nations of the North Atlantic Community which shared a common heritage, a common civilization, a common belief in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and a common desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments."

Mr. Pearson, our Secretary of State for External Affairs has said--

"For the people of the North Atlantic Community the Treaty is a new beginning. It carries the promise of a greater security and fuller co-operation amongst the nations. It spans an ocean to join two continents. It gives many millions of people who live in this area a chance to develop the principles and practice of international co-operation under rules of law and conduct that are familiar to them. It holds out the hope of freedom, order and progress in a peaceful world."

Such is the nature of the plan which has been made to chart the course of action for Canada and the United States which will associate us in defence with like-minded peoples overseas so that all together we may be so strong our freedom will not be challenged,--that we may be so strong our confidence