

to time exercised by the Soviets rendering the Security Council impotent. So strong was the feeling about this that during the past year many people had almost come to the conclusion that the United Nations Organization was, as the League of Nations had been, doomed to failure. Some persons even went so far as to suggest the creation of some other organization from which Russia and its satellites would be excluded. The failure to provide means to meet or repel aggression caused Canada and other friendly nations to join together in what subsequently became the North Atlantic Treaty, which we all know is designed for the protection of ourselves against the threat of communism.

The sudden invasion of Southern Korea by the communist forces of the north, armed with Russian weapons, happened fortuitously at a time when the Security Council was sitting and the representatives of Soviet Russia were absent, they having previously walked out in protest. It was also fortunate that at the particular time of this aggression a United Nations commission was actually sitting in Seoul in Korea and was able to give promptly a first-hand report of what had happened. Consequently the Security Council had reliable information on which to act, and it took prompt action to repel this armed attack and to restore international peace and security. Fortunately again, one of the great friendly powers, the United States, was so situated in the Pacific as to be able to place forces on the Korean front immediately, and, with aid from Australia, they undertook to meet the invader.

This example of leadership on the part of a great nation such as the United States gives us heart, I think, and removes the temptation to fear that the United Nations Organization is going "out the window"; and the views of the world with regard to United Nations may now change. This action of the United States, supported as it will be by other members of the United Nations, may as it were be a milestone in the organization's history and convince aggressors that if they invade neighbouring territory they will bring down upon themselves the combined forces of nations who are interested in the preservation of peace.

As a member of the United Nations and a signer of the North Atlantic Treaty, Canada had already undertaken defence expenditures far greater than she had ever incurred for defence purposes in so-called peace time. We all remember the vast amounts which were voted at the last session of parliament. The policy of Canada—it was discussed at length at the time and everyone seemed to be

familiar with it and to agree with it—was, first, to safeguard the defences of our own country; and, second, to provide machinery for raising and equipping a civilian force in the event of all-out war, instead of maintaining a standing army.

The Korean situation therefore presented an immediate and serious problem to Canada, for we were not organized to participate in such a campaign. We were able, however, to send to the East certain units of the navy which were then in the Pacific Ocean; we also directed the transport section of our air force to take part in the important task of maintaining the supply lines of the forces in Korea, which was no small undertaking. With no ground troops available, the government decided to raise a special force for service in Korea, or elsewhere as required. The response to the appeal for volunteers for this force was remarkable, and within two weeks the original establishment was raised, and as recently announced by the minister in the other place, 3,000 replacements—the number may be greater now—have been enlisted and are under training. At the outbreak of the Korean affair the total authorized strength of all three Canadian forces was 50,912. This has been increased by 40 per cent, which would bring the total to 69,160. The minister said, when he spoke a few days ago, that the strength of the armed forces had then reached 56,962.

While there are some who would stand on the sidelines and criticize the government for not taking stronger action, I feel free to say that we have no reason to be ashamed of what Canada is doing. In the past she has always done her part, and today is living up to that record. I am convinced that what has been undertaken by the government has the support of the vast majority of the Canadian people.

Furthermore, Canada is indeed fortunate in having as her Minister of National Defence the Honourable Brooke Claxton.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Fogo: It may well be that the portfolio of Minister of Militia and Defence in the years gone by was a sinecure; but no one would suggest that the Minister of National Defence today has an easy task. Mr. Claxton brings to this onerous position sound judgment, tremendous energy and perseverance. Further, he has the advantage of having served in the armed forces as a non-commissioned officer. This experience gives him firsthand knowledge of the problems of the men in the ranks. On many occasions