

purpose of safeguarding and realizing the ideals and principles shared by member states, especially peace and freedom of the individual, and to facilitate their economic and social progress. The Council's achievements are in the area of conventions, agreements, and uniform policies, and those for which it is best known are designed to enhance the welfare of the individual.

Despite the clear statement in the statute that matters relating to national defence do not fall within the scope of the Council of Europe, much of the impetus for a European army and for Euratom came from groups which were part of the European movement, and were expressed through the Consultative Assembly of this Council of Europe.

Why we should have accepted an invitation to be guests of honour at a sitting of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, and guests of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, goes beyond mere courtesies and the exigencies of good public relations.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** In the case of the Council of Europe our interest is best explained by tradition. The ancestors of most of us came from Europe—and not so long ago. It is only very human to take an interest in the countries from which our forefathers came. There is an attachment to Europe living in us which is as thick as blood, and which will not die easily. In any event, a peaceful Europe is the essential condition of our own peace.

Furthermore, we in Canada have been chosen by geography to act as a link between Europe and the mighty power with which we share the North American continent. I see no reason to be ashamed of this role which geography imposes upon us. I consider, rather, that we have been offered a magnificent challenge, and an opportunity to work in a concrete fashion towards better comprehension among nations. Who better understands the United States than us? Who is America's closest ally? Would not those European nations, which for some reason or other do not wish to deal directly with the United States, be reassured knowing that we will listen to them, and quite likely find the ear of the United States authorities with their suggestions, advice or requests. Should we be derelict in our duty to develop this faculty of arbiter between, and friendly adviser to the European continent and the United States of America, we will in effect be failing in what is probably the major role history will have assigned to us.

It must be remembered that Canada has not been invited to be a member of the Council of Europe, but only to exchange views with the members of the Consultative Assembly. As has been mentioned by Senator Martin, this exchange took place officially in the afternoon of May 14 last. These exchanges were very interesting and, incidentally, even if the question of defence is not within the competence of the Council, the new policy of our Government towards NATO was raised on this occasion as well as unofficially during our stay in Strasbourg. I will tell you very simply that no member of the Council—and practically all are members of NATO—understands the new policy of our Government which to them appears, and I think rightly, evasive, contradictory and rather illogical.

Senator O'Leary has said that the Council of Europe has not accomplished much since 1949, and that during that time we have witnessed the rape of Hungary and Czechoslovakia. It must be pointed out that Hungary and Czechoslovakia are not members of the Council of Europe and are behind the Iron Curtain, and that the rape in each instance was committed by a nation which is not a member of the Council.

It appears clear to us that the member states of the Council are satisfied that the Council has done a lot to achieve its objectives, and none has ever expressed any desire to withdraw from it or to see it abolished. In matters of international relations, especially when the problem of the unification of Europe is dealt with, you cannot expect sensational results in twenty years. If you are going to achieve anything, you have to be patient. The history of the League of Nations and the United Nations Organization is proof of this.

Honourable senators, as far as the Czechoslovakian part of our trip is concerned, I consider that it was more useful at this particular juncture in time than at any other. I endorse the assessment made by Senator Martin of the political situation in that country. I would merely add that notwithstanding the affirmation of their faith in communism, the Czechoslovakians really believe in the possibility of a détente between west and east. This is best evidenced by their clear desire to increase cultural and commercial relations with the western states and the North American countries, especially Canada. The warmth of their hospitality, and the kindness shown the Canadian delegation prove without a doubt that they do not consider their obligations under the Warsaw Pact