

Staff of the Brussels Treaty Powers and from them to the Defence Ministers of those five powers.

"The Canadian Government has taken these steps towards the creation of an effective regional security system with, I am sure, the overwhelming support of the people of Canada. The people of Canada have given this support knowing that Canada's participation in such a security system may require that, in an emergency, we share not only our risks but our resources. It would, for instance, be the task of a North Atlantic security system, once it is established, to agree upon a fair allocation of duties among the participating countries, under which each will undertake to do that share of the joint defence and production job that it can do most efficiently.

"Such a sharing of risks, resources and obligations must, however, be accompanied by, and flow from a share in the control of policy. If obligations and resources are to be shared, it is obvious that some sort of constitutional machinery must be established under which each participating country will have a fair share in determining the policies of all which affect all. Otherwise, without their consent, the policy of one or two or three may increase the risks and therefore the obligations of all.

"This does not necessarily mean that every member of a regional security pact need be represented on all levels in all organs of the regional organization. To insist on this would make some of the organs unworkable. But it does mean that every organ of the regional security organization will derive its powers from a constitutional grant of those powers to it by all the members of the organization."

On October 25, Mr. Claxton, speaking in Toronto, said:

"The countries of Western Union have been working at political, economic and military levels to give substance to the words of this agreement. (The Treaty of Brussels of March 17, 1948.) And, a matter of the greatest importance, they, together with the United States and Canada, have been working on the problem of how to strengthen Western Union with a North Atlantic Security Pact. The reason for this is obvious. We all know now that it is much better to stand together than to fall separately. And make no mistake about it. If a war comes, if the Soviet Union commits an act of aggression, it will be an act which will break our peace and ultimately threaten our security. The only war possible today is a war of aggression by the Soviets. I have heard some people—just a few—speak about the possibility of Canada being neutral in such a war. I do not believe that this is even a theoretical possibility for us. Our vital interests, even our territory could be open to attack. The choice in war would be a simple one—Communism or Canada. Our people would never tolerate a position in which we were passive while our country was being defended by others.

"For these reasons we have, as Mr. St. Laurent said, pressed for the consummation of a North Atlantic Security Pact. That policy was supported unanimously by the National Liberal Convention in a resolution adopted at Ottawa on August 6 of this year, by the C.C.F. on August 21 and by the Progressive-Conservative Party on October 2.

"As Western Union becomes stronger, any chance that there might be of the Soviet Union winning an aggressive war will obviously become less. The existence of a North Atlantic Security Pact of mutual assistance including the United States and Canada would further reduce the chance of Soviet success.

"The existence of an Atlantic Security Pact in 1935 would have prevented the Second World War in 1939.

"On this account the Soviet Union has pressed her efforts to drive the United States, Britain and France out of Berlin because her success in this line would deal a damaging blow at Western Union. It is this effort and the willingness to run the risks which it involves that has added tension to the present situation. I don't believe that the Russian people or even the Soviet leaders want war today; but their intransigent attitude has increased its possibility.

"Even though the situation in Berlin might improve, there would be other points of tension and difficulty. We shall only have a stable peace when the Soviet Government seeks the welfare of their people rather than the extension of their power.

"In short, the Soviet attitude since the end of the war has driven and is driving the Western democracies into the same kind of union to preserve the peace as was needed to win the war. It is a defensive union. No one of these countries has any aggressive intentions, and Russian distortions will not alter that fact

"Plans alone are useless. We must put them into effect.

"First, there must be action on the *political front* so that the countries concerned will consider their essential common objectives of security and recovery as well as their individual interests.

"Second, there must be action on the *economic front* so that the countries concerned will work together for prosperity as well as for security and peace.