

we are bound, we were already under an obligation to come to the assistance of the NATO forces stationed in the territory of the German Federal Republic. The situation then, is substantially the same under the present protocol in so far as extending our territorial guarantee is concerned.

While I am on the subject of commitments -- and there has been some discussion about this previously outside the House -- I should like to assure the House that the Canadian Government took no new commitments in London or in Paris to keep Canadian forces in Europe at any given level or for any given period. What was emphasized at the conference was our determination to continue to play our full part in the North Atlantic Organization. As I stated to the nine-power conference in London last October -- and this statement was made public immediately --

As I see it, European unity cannot be effectively secured unless the lines not only across the channel but across the Atlantic are strong and unbroken. My country has a part to play in this Atlantic aspect of the problem. Therefore, we accept the continuing obligations arising out of our membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and we are resolved to continue to do our best to discharge them.

Also at the same time I declared to that conference:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization remains the focal point of our participation in collective defence and of our hope for the development of closer co-operation with the other peoples of the Atlantic community. As such, it remains a foundation of Canadian foreign policy. Indeed --

I hope I was correct in saying this; I think I was.

-- enduring and whole-hearted support for NATO is for us a policy above politics on which I think our friends can rely.

As regards the proposals for an arms pool, which by hon. friend from Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) brought up the other day, these proposals, which as I mentioned a minute ago were submitted originally by the French government, are now under active discussion among the European governments concerned. We are being invited to send an observer to those meetings when matters come up which are of interest to us. As this matter is under discussion it would be premature for me to comment on it now. But our direct interest in the arms pooling proposals would of course relate only to the allocation of Canadian