

I want to develop this point a bit. The Canadian Government has made it clear that it is not only willing, but anxious, to join the other North Atlantic democracies in establishing a regional collective security pact for the North Atlantic.

We believe that the maintenance of an overwhelming superiority of force on the side of peace is the best guarantee today of the maintenance of peace.

As you know, representatives of the Canadian Government have been participating for over two months now in informal and exploratory discussions in Washington on the problems of security raised in the Vandenberg Resolution. These discussions have taken place between representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Benelux countries and Canada.

All the governments concerned have agreed that no information about these discussions will be made public until a decision is reached.

It is not, therefore, possible for me to tell you today how these discussions are going. I can, however, say that the Canadian Government has every reason to believe that the discussions will be fruitful; that Canada is playing a useful part in them.

The Canadian Government has also, since the end of July, had an observer present at the discussions in London of the Military Committee of the Brussels Powers - the United Kingdom, France and Benelux. The United States has also had observers present at these meetings. The reports of this Military Committee go to the Chiefs of 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.

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