



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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No. 55/4 "NATIONS BUSINESS" BROADCAST

A radio broadcast by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, delivered in the "Nations Business" series over the CBC January 28, 1955.

(Comments on the debate in the House of Commons regarding the approval of the Paris Agreements under which the Federal Republic of Germany would be invited to join NATO; and the current situation in Formosa.)

On Wednesday of this week in Ottawa, the House of Commons concluded a debate which extended over four days and included 55 speakers. Afterwards Parliament, by an overwhelming majority, became one of the first of the NATO legislatures to approve the Paris Agreements under which the Federal Republic of Germany, with sovereignty restored, but with its right to rearm limited and controlled, would be invited to join our North Atlantic organization and take its rightful share in the defence and development of the Atlantic and European communities.

The vote which made this result possible was an inspiring demonstration of national and parliamentary unity on a matter which was above party politics. The only opposition came from the CCF party, 12 members of which, but not including their Leader, voted against the resolution, which the rest of us, 213 in number, considered to be so important for the defence and development of the free world. I share the view expressed by the acting Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Earl Rowe, that it was heartening and it was good to see the two historic parties of Canada, the Liberal and the Conservative, standing shoulder to shoulder on this issue.

The decision on this question was taken only after a good deal of soul-searching, and the most careful thought. As I said in introducing the resolution in the House of Commons last week:

"Many Canadians, including many of us in this House, and even more of our allies who are taking this decision with us, with all its consequences, bear on their bodies and in their minds scars from the German war machine."

The Members of Parliament of all parties who supported these agreements have done so not because we have forgotten the past, but because we remember it.