

*North Atlantic Treaty*

Speaker, this situation exists more forcibly today than it did ten or fifteen years ago.

At the present time we speak in terms of the sterling area or of the dollar area, of barter and bilateral deals, and the startling effect of embargoes and trading inside the iron curtain, or expulsion for trading in the British colonial countries. I could go on enumerating many of the factors which in no time will show that at the present time we are in a real economic war. I hope, and I pray, that in the deliberations on the Atlantic pact it will be found possible to smooth out these economic frictions; that it will be possible to comprehend one another.

I am not a man who believes that absolute free trade is possible in the world, but when we have the restrictions that we see at the present time, I believe that the leading nations are sinning, and sinning very grievously as far as the economics of the world are concerned. It should even be possible to smooth out some of these pacts. I do not say this in any critical way, but I cannot understand why it is not possible for Great Britain to buy more from Canada and vice versa. I will go further. We have said, and we shall repeat it time and time again during the present discussion, that behind all our talk there is always in the back of our minds the war of ideology in which two worlds are involved. On the one side there is communism, and on the other there are what we call the free democracies of the world. But in my view, any nation that signs the Atlantic pact should be very careful, after having signed it, that, when it deals behind the iron curtain in commerce and in trade, the goods that are purchased, perhaps more cheaply than they can be obtained from the United States and Canada, are not produced at the cost of thousands of lives or at the cost of sweat and suffering without remuneration. I make an appeal also to our United States friends. Is it not possible to soften what we call the dollar area, the sound money area? Although not well versed in economics, I admire the great principles the United States has shown since the end of the last war, when she poured out her riches, her money, her American dollars to help rehabilitate Europe. But it is still past my comprehension when I note the disparity between the so-called American dollar area and the sterling area. Let me repeat that we must destroy to a large extent the economic barriers and embargoes I mentioned a moment ago, if we wish to find real peace, even within the nations of the Atlantic pact.

One word about article 10, which reads:

The parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this

treaty. Any state so invited may become a party to the treaty by depositing its instrument of accession with the government of the United States of America. The government of the United States of America will inform each of the parties of the deposit of each such instrument of accession.

I take upon myself the responsibility, when dealing with that article, to mention a section of the world which, for the last ten years, has been treated unfairly by the rest of the world. I mention the Iberian peninsula, that great country of Spain, where live those fine, proud Spanish people.

Let everyone realize that in the United Nations the gates have been opened to all democratic nations of the world. But at the same time, on that score, there might be a play on words. Because as a delegate to the United Nations I often heard use of the word freedom, and reference made to free elections, tolerance in religion and real democracy—and more particularly were those references made by Mr. Vishinsky and Mr. Gromyko, and the Russian satellite representatives from behind the iron curtain. In my view those words in their mouths were simply prostitutions of things almost sacred.

At the same time I am of the opinion that the gates should be opened to some nations which in the future may prove that they are really democratic. Spain is really a democratic nation. But, if we want to study the situation carefully, let us see what happened there. Some cohorts from the soviet stage went there and polluted and poisoned her national political life. No matter what one may say, the so-called elections that they had before the insurrection were not free elections at all.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Spanish nation. And let me say this at the present time, that I hold no brief for its head. I am not in favour of any totalitarian chief or master of any nation. But we must remember that if communism has been stopped short in that section of Europe it is due to the attitude of Franco and of the people who fought on his side. There can be no question about that.

I deeply deplore what happened to Archbishop Stepinac, and what happened only a few weeks ago to Cardinal Mindszenty. And as a Roman Catholic I deplore deeply what happened to those twelve fine ministers of Protestant churches in Bulgaria, whom we all know were not guilty of treason. When we hear of the persecution of any church, we must remember that persecution is a dangerous and cancerous growth, one that is very easily started and almost impossible to stop.

In 1938 in the town of Timmins I was invited by the Jewish population in that