

essential to my country. What other organization links Europe and North America, brings Germany into an alliance relationship with other nations of Western Europe, prevents France and the other larger Western European states from dominating their neighbours, and makes it possible for the Western European nations to treat on a basis of equality with the Russians."

I would subscribe to that characterization of the present value of NATO to Canada.

I have also outlined certain considerations which suggest that the withdrawal of Canadian forces from Europe could disturb the fabric of co-operation and hence prejudice NATO's ability contribute to the development of the kind of conditions in Europe necessary in the long run for the achievement of a European settlement. The maintenance of appropriate Canadian forces in Europe also serves to increase our links with the countries of Europe which are so necessary in a world moving continentalism, whether it be in Europe, in North America, in Asia, in Africa, or in Latin America.

At the same time, I would remind you of what I have said about achieving mutual reductions of forces between NATO and Warsaw Pact companies. At the last NATO ministerial meeting, speaking for Canada, I said that we should envisage a process of mutual disengagement in Europe. But the important word there is "mutual".

I have indicated that the precise nature of our contribution to NATO is under review continually. Our future commitment will take into account the relevance of that commitment to collective security and to the major political objective of a peaceful settlement in Europe.

Mr. Chairman, I would be very pleased to answer questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Before proceeding further, may I refer to the fact that we have as guests at our meeting this morning several members of the Diplomatic Corps.

I would say to these gentlemen that we are very pleased to have them here and we welcome them most sincerely to this meeting.

Senator MACKENZIE: We are all very much impressed by the point made by Mr. Martin regarding the trend in the world toward continentalism. I think it is an accurate summary of what seems to be happening.

This does create for Canada, in my opinion, historically, a problem of our relationship; because, in terms of our geography and other interests we are essentially a North American nation, but our relevant strength vis-a-vis the United States makes it difficult in a continental system for us to be other than a satellite. It was because of that, and it is because of that, that I have had an interest in NATO and the development of the Atlantic Community from the outside.

This increases as the possibility of Britain's entry into the European Common Market continues to focus attention, because it would affect us, not only in the military sense and the political sense but perhaps, immediately more important, in the economic sense.

My question, which has been prefaced by these remarks, is whether there are developments that can indicate measures to pursue that will achieve some of the earlier hopes in respect of the Atlantic Community, not only in the military sense, which has served its purpose, as you have said, but in the economic and political senses, which will be basic, I think, to Canada's independence in the continental world.

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: Senator MacKenzie, that is a fine statement. I know you are interested in this subject. I have read some of your articles in another period on this problem.