

To be properly understood, I suggest that the commitment under this article should be compared with others which Canada has been prepared to take. Such a comparison has already been made during this discussion. When we entered into war with Germany and Japan, the Canadian people accepted a commitment far more general, far more exacting than those imposed by the terms of this treaty. The charter of the United Nations also imposes on us an extensive commitment. Article 43 of the charter provides that military agreements shall be entered into by the member states for the purpose of placing military force at the disposal of the security council. Once those military agreements have been completed, we shall be committed in this country to giving military support to the United Nations at the call of the security council. We are, moreover, bound to do more than that in obedience to the decision for the security council. As you know, the charter gives that council the right to impose economic or financial measures, blockades, or other forms of sanction short of war. I think it is important, therefore, to point out that the commitments which we undertake in this North Atlantic treaty are, in fact, commitments which we have already accepted in the United Nations charter and commitments which we have already taken very seriously indeed, as is shown by statements which the Canadian delegation has made at United Nations meetings. We have already recognized then, by our statements and by our actions, that peace is not kept and freedom is not preserved -- as the leader of the opposition suggested so wisely this afternoon -- merely by wishing for them or by signing peace pacts. We are a realistic people and we know that safety is not gained without effort. I know, and you know, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian people have been willing in the past, and will be in the future, to make that effort.

I need hardly add that if, in spite of our efforts to keep the peace, some member of this alliance is attacked and we are called upon to fulfil our commitments, this country, this parliament and this government will act with the necessary determination and despatch. So far as this government is concerned, Mr. Speaker, in the face of a national emergency so grave as to call into force our commitments under this pact, it would immediately desire to consult parliament. This has now become a regular procedure in our history, and no one of course would wish to depart from it. No government could fulfil the responsibility which action under this treaty would impose without being certain of the support of the people of this country expressed through their representatives in parliament.

The remaining articles of the treaty define and amplify the articles I have already mentioned. Article 6 is a definition of the area within which the treaty has application. It reads as follows:

For the purpose of article 5 an armed attack on one or more of the parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the territory of any of the parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian departments of France, on the occupation forces of any party in Europe, on the islands under the jurisdiction of any party in the North Atlantic area north of the tropic of Cancer or on the vessels or aircraft in this area of any of the parties.

The effect of this article, therefore, is to limit the territory covered, and the obligation, to the North Atlantic area. It does not include colonial possessions or other territory outside the area which is defined.

Article 7 is a further statement of the purpose of the North Atlantic states to play their part as loyal members of the United Nations.

Then we come to article 8, which seemed to cause a certain anxiety in the mind of the leader of the Social Credit group when he made his distinguished speech on the draft treaty this afternoon. In article 8 the signatory states undertake to enter into no other obligations which conflict with this treaty. That is a normal and, I think, a useful provision in security treaties of this kind. It does not have the effect, Mr. Speaker -- as I believe some hon. members have feared -- of incorporating any other international agreements into the North