

The decision that we are called upon to make at this session is truly a momentous one. Should we fail to grasp its implications we shall fall short of what Canada expects from us. At San Francisco this country must help shape the pattern of the post-war world. The Dumbarton Oaks proposals for a world security organization, endorsed by this resolution, unquestionably provide a real and workable basis for maintaining peace. These proposals are based, not on fictitious abstractions, but upon realities of the world to-day. And the biggest of these realities is the fact that for the first time in the history of mankind the vast majority of the world's peoples, represented by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, have achieved definite agreements for planned, long-term cooperation on a world scale.

If we had no peace in the past it is because never before was agreement achieved on such a scale and on such a high level of understanding. Capitalist democracies, the socialist Soviet Union, the peoples of Europe and the far east fighting for liberation have overcome all differences in order to wage war. They are no less firmly united in their determination to establish enduring peace and economic collaboration for world prosperity.

That determination is fully shared by Canada's people, French- and English-speaking alike.

Our achievements in this war, of which all Canadians are justly proud, have been possible above all, because we have had before us a supreme national objective, the objective of victory.

So likewise, in the post-war years we must fight unitedly for an objective that will be as easily understood and as widely supported by the overwhelming majority of Canadians—the establishment of an enduring and prosperous peace. Only by maintaining such a unity in pursuit of this new great objective can we make sure that Canada will play her full part as a sovereign power in world affairs.

Just because Canada is so strategically placed as a member of the British commonwealth of nations, a nation of the Americas, and a next-door neighbour both to the United States and the Soviet Union, she can make a most vital contribution to the security and the peace of the world. In making this contribution constructively and independently Canada can best fulfil her destiny as a young, vigorous and growing power.

Canada's new stature as a power should find expression at San Francisco. She could declare herself publicly prepared to accept responsibility as a member of the new world security organization, ready to share responsibility for jointly preventing aggression, and ready to

maintain a permanent armed force after the war in order to help in the collective safeguarding of peace. Nothing less than that is required of us.

I welcome the unanimity with which the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and leaders of other groups on this side of the house have expressed support for the principles embodied in the resolution. My party, from the very first, has sought to popularize among the people the historic agreement reached at Teheran and more recently at Yalta by the three leaders of the world. We believe that the attitude of parties and individuals toward those momentous agreements will determine whether or not we have lived up to the opportunities and responsibilities of this decisive turning point in the history of the world.

The Prime Minister's speech expressed the desires and aspirations of the Canadian peoples for a peace which will endure. It is therefore regrettable that anything in his speech should have given ground for the kind of interpretation that has crept into some of to-day's newspapers, which suggest too much emphasis on reservations and alterations.

It is disturbing that in the discussion reservations over secondary and even minor features of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals have tended to overshadow what is primary, namely that the big three have reached a definite agreement on the basic principles for a world security organization.

Any attempt to argue legally and on technical ground in this regard in respect of that agreement means that the peoples of the world can only undermine unity and help the foes of peace. Among the close to fifty nations to be represented at San Francisco Canada should stand out as a staunch supporter of the unity achieved in the Crimea. Pressure from the opponents of that unity will operate with most telling effect on small nations which have more limited responsibility. Canada should under no circumstances fall victim to such reactionary pressure.

I could not help feeling that such pressure found some expression in the speech of the leader of the C.C.F. Instead of telling the house that we should go to San Francisco to assure the immediate setting up of a permanent organization for world security the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan goes no further than saying—

The Dumbarton Oaks agreement provides a good basis for at least the discussion at San Francisco of concerted action among the nations to outlaw war.