

I would not wish to leave the impression that with NATO all is well. That is far from being the case. For the gap is still wide between what we have and what we need. And the time may be short. But NATO has at last begun to gather way and the forces are at work throughout the nations of the West which, given time (and that is an important proviso), will ensure the attainment of the first purposes of the North Atlantic Treaty. The framework of organization has been constructed and the flesh has begun to appear on the skeleton. Despite the critical position in the Far East and the pressure from the forces of Soviet imperialism in other areas of the world, the eyes of the NATO countries have remained fixed on the crucial strong point of Western Europe. For the first time in peace - or in an area where there are no hostilities - the troops of one country have been submitted voluntarily to the command of a citizen of another. For the first time since the Crusades, Western Christendom has an army made up of forces contributed by various nations committed to a common purpose. Here are grounds for hope. Here is a foundation for confidence that the forces of Communist imperialism are not irresistible, that Europe is not lost and that neither Britain nor North America will be the last or sole citadel of freedom. Our feet are set firmly upon the right road.

The common defence is the immediate and urgent goal of the North Atlantic Treaty. But there is no reason why we should lose sight of the farther horizon - the ultimate creation in the Atlantic area of a great community of free nations. It seems to me that there is in this association of Atlantic countries something peculiarly attractive to most Canadians. In the face of a common danger, under the stern remorseless threat to our survival, we twelve nations of the Atlantic have come together to pool our resources that we may survive. In the process we are developing new working institutions, not only in purely military things, but inevitably too, common machinery to deal with the economics and the politics of joint effort. Among these twelve nations of the Atlantic are those who hold in common much of the ancient heritage of Christendom. For us in North America the shrines of Western Europe are no mere items of geography. In Britain, in France, in Italy are the vital well-springs of our civilization. In our painful struggle for security from a very present threat we are developing a new consciousness of Atlantic unity, the results of which may far exceed our immediate purposes and expectations. May we not these past two years have taken the first steps toward something much greater and more positive - a genuine Community of the Atlantic?

When the National Capital plan of Washington was being considered more than a century ago, Daniel Burnham wrote this:

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans. Aim high in hope and work remembering that a noble logical diagram once recorded will be a living thing asserting itself with ever growing insistency".