

ardent wishes for his rapid and full recovery, and again assure him of our respectful and unflinching loyalty.

I have been impatient to mention the enthusiasm with which Canadian people greeted Their Royal Highnesses, the most gracious Princess Elizabeth, and her prince charming, the Duke of Edinburgh, when they literally came down from heaven at Dorval. This visit will be a milestone in our history. It is to us a most pleasant reminder of former royal visits, that in 1860, of His Majesty King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales; those in 1901 and in 1908, of Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary; and that in 1939, of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

In rendering to our Princess our most respectful homage, we pray the Holy Ghost to shower upon her His ineffable gifts, to help her fulfil the heavy duties of her high office as nobly, gracefully and unflinchingly as did her illustrious parents. We are happy to find in Their Royal Highnesses those family virtues in which simplicity and distinction are so harmoniously blended, and of which Their Majesties, the King and Queen, gave such a shining example to the world from day to day.

The warm welcome already given Their Royal Highnesses in Quebec and Ontario is only a foretaste of what awaits them in all the provinces of Canada. The whole province of Quebec is happy at the thought that, after having toured our great country, our royal guests will soon come back to Montreal. We wish them health, joy and happiness during their stay in Canada, and extend those same wishes to their dear children, Prince Charles and little Princess Ann.

(Text):

Honourable Senators, another very significant event deserves special mention. On the 15th of September, 1951, the North Atlantic Council held in Ottawa a meeting, attended for the first time by most of the ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Finance, of the twelve member states of NATO. By our distinguished visitors' own admission, this conference was highly successful and the height of praise was showered upon our government for its perfect organization. Thanks to the energetic action taken by our dynamic Minister of External Affairs, the Honourable L. B. Pearson, this council is now the sole directing authority of NATO and can promptly settle all matters relating to the operation of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Let us remember that, in the face of threatening communist aggression, an alliance of the free peoples is the way to safeguard

our western institutions and that, in order to be effective, such an alliance must have sufficient military power to deter any possible aggressor.

It was in this spirit that the signatories of the treaty united to preserve universal peace and security by organizing their collective defence.

The basic principle, affirmed from the very outset, is that of a defensive alliance to ensure peace and not to make war. That doctrine was already well recognized by the Romans, who proclaimed that whoever wants peace must prepare for war—*Si vis pacem*. Unfortunately, as history teaches us, after growing rich with the spoils of the peoples they had conquered, the Romans soon lapsed into materialism and sensualism, and left the defence of the empire in the hands of legions recruited in other lands. This policy of decadence led at once to internal strife, and ultimately to the invasion of the barbarians and the destruction of Rome.

Today the international situation involves similar dangers. That is why freedom-loving nations decided to unite in developing their military power and to ask of their citizens such sacrifices as are required for the success of the common cause. An integrated army was therefore organized in Europe, the supreme command being entrusted to the great General Eisenhower, with headquarters in Paris.

Each country that signed the Treaty contributes armed forces, according to its means, to this army which is growing daily, yet too slowly in the estimation of our best informed leaders. To ensure perfect unity of action, this defensive alliance must now become the nucleus of a true commonwealth of free nations. We must have closer political co-operation and improve our economic and social position; we must strengthen existing institutions and create new ones where they are needed. The NATO Council has been reorganized; it is now the sole agency, at the ministerial level.

In 1943, the Council of War, held at the Citadel in Quebec, opened a new trend in allied defence. In like manner the meeting of the NATO Council, held in Ottawa in September, 1951, opened a new trend in the efforts of the western nations towards peace and security. The Right Honourable the Prime Minister of Canada and our Minister of External Affairs should be congratulated for having initiated these fortunate trends. Our ministers of National Defence and of Finance, the Honourable Messrs. Brooke Claxton and D. C. Abbott, also deserve congratulations for representing our country with such dignity at this conference.