

Such a sharing of risks, resources and obligations must, however, be accompanied by, and flow from a share in the control of policy. If obligations and resources are to be shared, it is obvious that some sort of constitutional machinery must be established under which each participating country will have a fair share in determining the policies of all which affect all. Otherwise, without their consent, the policy of one or two or three may increase the risks and therefore the obligations of all.

This does not necessarily mean that every member of a regional security pact need be represented on all levels in all organs of the regional organization. To insist on this would make some of the organs unworkable. But it does mean that every organ of the regional security organization will derive its powers from a constitutional grant of those powers to it by all the members of the organization."

On October 25, Mr. Claxton, speaking in Toronto, said:

"The countries of Western Union have been working at political, economic and military levels to give substance to the words of this agreement. (The Treaty of Brussels of March 17, 1948). And, a matter of the greatest importance, they, together with the United States and Canada, have been working on the problem of how to strengthen Western Union with a North Atlantic Security Pact. The reason for this is obvious. We all know now that it is much better to stand together than to fall separately. And make no mistake about it. If a war comes, if the Soviet Union commits an act of aggression, it will be an act which will break our peace and ultimately threaten our security. The only war possible today is a war of aggression by the Soviets. I have heard some people - just a few - speak about the possibility of Canada being neutral in such a war. I do not believe that this is even a theoretical possibility for us. Our vital interests, even our territory could be open to attack. The choice in war would be a simple one - Communism or Canada. Our people would never tolerate a position in which we were passive while our country was being defended by others.

For these reasons we have, as Mr. St. Laurent said, pressed for the consummation of a North Atlantic Security Pact. That policy was supported unanimously by the National Liberal Convention in a resolution adopted at Ottawa on August 6th of this year, by the C.C.F. on August 21st and by the Progressive-Conservative Party on October 2nd.

As Western Union becomes stronger, any chance that there might be of the Soviet Union winning an aggressive war will obviously become less. The existence of a North Atlantic Security Pact of mutual assistance including the United States and Canada would further reduce the chance of Soviet success.

The existence of an Atlantic Security Pact in 1935 would have prevented the Second World War in 1939.

On this account the Soviet Union has pressed her efforts to drive the United States, Britain and France out of Berlin because her success in this line would deal a damaging blow at Western Union. It is this effort and the willingness to run the risks which it involves that has added tension to the present situation. I don't believe that the Russian people or even the Soviet leaders want war today; but their intransigent attitude has increased its possibility.

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