

That an armed attack in the Pacific area on any of the parties would be dangerous to its own peace and security and declares that it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes.

As far as this government is concerned, I think we could almost accept that obligation at the present time, without any Pacific pact, with most of the countries with whose security in the Pacific we are concerned. But this is not a Pacific pact, so the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra asks why we do not take the lead in negotiating such a Pacific pact. Leaving aside for the moment the propriety of Canada taking leadership in this effort, I suggest that it would be impracticable at the present time to negotiate a Pacific pact similar to the North Atlantic pact. The best proof of that fact is that the United States has separate pacts with Japan, with the Philippines, with New Zealand and with Australia. If the United States has made separate pacts with those countries she did so because she did not think it desirable or practicable to make a general pact.

I think this reasoning of the United States and the other governments referred to seems sensible. If you tried to negotiate at this time a general Pacific pact, whom would you include and whom would you leave out? What about China? Would you include the Chiang Kai-shek Government in Formosa as part of a general Pacific pact, along the lines of the Atlantic pact? If you did not include that Government, would it be easy in the eyes of some governments to leave them out? Would you include the three Indo-Chinese states? Would you include Thailand? Would you include an Asian state that wished to join? If not, how would you exclude them if they wished to join? I suggest that any attempt to negotiate that kind of general Pacific agreement at this stage would not strengthen but weaken security in the Pacific. But I can assure the House at the same time that this Government is vitally interested in security in the Pacific. We are a pacific country in a geographical as well as in a political sense, and we desire to play our proper part in the Pacific in political and economic as well as in diplomatic matters because that area is becoming of great and growing importance to Canada.

Speaking in Vancouver immediately after the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty, in a statement to which my hon. friend, the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra made reference the other day I said:

We have now in the Pacific certain defence arrangements. The United States and Japan have one. The United States and the Philippines have one. The United States, Australia and New Zealand have one. Canada and the United States, both Pacific powers, have one. It may well be that in the future we will be able to gather together these arrangements into a general Pacific pact, and if that time comes -

And I suggest it has not come yet.

- I am sure that Canada will show her appreciation of the importance of collective security in the Pacific as we have already done in the North Atlantic