

effects of their actions upon our own security. We had plenty of company in those days for trying to whittle down the obligations of the Covenant and avoid commitments. And here, as in other matters, we were bound to be affected too by the prevailing attitude of the American Government and people. We continued as members of the League of Nations and of the British Commonwealth. But we were not expecting our membership in either organization to cost us too much. None of us had yet learned the hard road to security.

The unprovoked and ruthless Nazi attack in 1939 changed all that. Canadians recognized with a shock that their own position was threatened. By the virtually unanimous act of her own Parliament, summoned the day after Hitler's attack on Poland, Canada entered the war on September 10. (By one of those curious constitutional anomalies which mystify foreigners the King of Canada remained at peace with the German Reich for a week after the King of Britain had declared war.) The mobilization of our forces had already begun and in the battles which followed the Nazi break-out of 1940, Canadian soldiers, Canadian airmen and Canadian sailors played a solid part. In 1941, our response to the attack on Pearl Harbour was immediate - the Canadian declaration of war was made the same day. In the years - the testing years which followed until VE-Day and finally VJ-Day - Canada and the United States were fighting allies.

The war changed greatly the positions of Canada and the United States. The United States emerged the strong, unrivalled leader of the free nations. Canada, in the course of the battle, had become a nation of consequence and an ally of worth.

In Canada, the end of the fighting of World War II was not followed by the relapse into unreality which had succeeded 1918. The Canadian Government and people had been convinced by the near catastrophe of 1940 and 1941 that only by the collective strength of like-minded countries could security be attained.

From the beginning Canada was a whole-hearted supporter of the United Nations. When, however, it became clear that, whatever its other possibilities, the United Nations could not be counted on to deter aggression, Canadian public men took a leading part in bringing about the North Atlantic Alliance. It was not hard for Canadians to appreciate the vital importance to North America and to the whole free world of an adequate defence in Western Europe. We had learned to our tragic cost in two world wars, that a threat to this land of our ancestors, this source of our culture and our traditions, was a threat to Canada. And that is why you will now find stationed in Germany and France with the NATO forces four wings of jet fighters of the RCAF and a brigade group of the Canadian Army. That is why ships of the Royal Canadian Navy form part of the NATO forces whose headquarters is in Norfolk, Virginia. That is why the Canadian Parliament, year after year, have appropriated millions of dollars to provide equipment and training for the forces of our NATO allies.

In the affairs of the North Atlantic Council it is not bad, I think, for the United States to have about the table in the Palais de Chaillot the representative of a country which is also North American and which is not beholden to the U.S. Government or Congress for aid in any shape or form. The fact that we speak the same idiom isn't a bad thing either.