



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

CANADIAN REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE

OTTAWA, April 1, 1949

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note No. 9 of March 31, 1949, with which you forward, on the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a memorandum of the Government of the U.S.S.R. concerning the North Atlantic Treaty, and to request you to convey the following to your Government.

As has been repeatedly stated by representatives of the Canadian Government, the North Atlantic Treaty is fully in accord with the principles and Charter of the United Nations and is not specifically directed against any power. The Treaty states in the first paragraph of the Preamble that the parties "reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments." Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations specifically recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs "until the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security." A reading of the text of the North Atlantic Treaty should convince all that it does not conflict in any way with the Charter of the United Nations nor, specifically, with Article 51.

The text of the Treaty also makes it clear that the parties have no aggressive aims. The Preamble states that the parties "are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security," and the Articles of the Treaty are exclusively concerned with protection against armed attack from any quarter.

It is clear, therefore, that the North Atlantic Treaty is not directed against any country which does not plan aggression nor does it contravene in any respect the Charter of the United Nations. For these reasons the Canadian Government must categorically deny the accuracy and validity of the conclusions made in the declaration of the Government of the U.S.S.R. concerning the North Atlantic Treaty.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

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O t t a w a.

Secretary of State
for External Affairs