

continent and to grow steadily, will be merged in such a way as to lose its identity. We stand with the United States, shoulder to shoulder with the European Army and its German element. We stand under the Supreme NATO Commander and we stand ready to face whatever aggression may fall upon us.

Now—now be careful! I am going to do something which I always warn my French friends about. I am going to speak French. The late Lord Birkenhead, whom many of you knew, said of my French that it was the best in the world. He said: "The French seem to understand it and it is the only French I have ever been able to understand." However, I will follow the example of the Prime Minister, asking for all your kindness and consideration.

In repeating what I have just said—

Jusqu'à maintenant, cette alliance a été envisagée seulement sous son aspect militaire, mais nous sentons tous, spécialement depuis notre visite à Washington, qu'elle prend une envergure à la mesure de la conception qu'ont les pays du pacte de l'Atlantique de la liberté des nations. Celles-ci agissent non seulement pour leur défense, mais pour le bien-être, le bonheur et le progrès de tous les peuples du monde libre. Pour cela, nous devons faire tout en notre pouvoir pour favoriser l'unification de l'Europe et la création d'une armée européenne incluant l'Allemagne.

Je suis depuis longtemps un défenseur de ces deux idées. Nous devons tenter l'impossible pour les réaliser. Cela ne veut pas dire que l'Angleterre deviendra une unité au sein d'une Europe fédérée, ni que son armée, déjà rangée sur le continent, et sans cesse augmentée, sera incorporée de telle façon qu'elle perdra son identité. Nous sommes prêts, de concert avec les Etats-Unis, aux côtés de l'armée européenne et de ses éléments allemands, et sous l'autorité du commandant suprême de l'OTAN, à affronter une agression éventuellement dirigée contre nous, d'où qu'elle vienne.

Your Excellency, Prime Minister, it was only ten weeks last Friday that I accepted His Majesty's commission to form a Government in the United Kingdom. We have hardly yet had time to learn the full facts of our economic position, but what we saw at first sight convinced us of its gravity. By reducing our imports, mainly of food, by £350 million a year, and by other measures, we strove to arrest the evils which were advancing and descending upon us.

We do not intend, we do not want to live on our friends and relations, but to earn our own living and pay our own way as far as the comforts and standards of the British people are concerned. I can assure you that will be the resolve of the British nation. We gave all our strength to the last ounce during the War, and we are resolved to conquer our problems now that the War is over. The ordeal that lies before us will be hard and will not be short. We do not shrink from any measures necessary to restore confidence and to maintain solvency, however unpopular those measures may be.

Prime Minister, you have spoken in your most gracious speech, if I may apply the word, your most kindly speech, about the Crown; and you have spoken in terms which express our deepest feelings. No absolute rules can be laid down about the methods of government, but on the whole it is wise in human affairs and in the government of men to separate pomp from power. Under the long established constitutional monarchy, established over the centuries, of Britain and of the Commonwealth, the King reigns but does not govern. If a great battle is lost, Parliament and the people can turn out the Government. If a great battle is won, crowds cheer the King.

Thus while the ordinary struggles, turmoils and inevitable errors of healthy democratic government proceed, there is established upon an unchallenged pedestal