

CANADA AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY

Six weeks ago, speaking in the House of Commons, I said that the free nations, or some of them, might soon find it necessary to consult together on how best to establish a new collective security league under Article 51 of the Charter. I said that Canada should be willing to enter such a league. I referred to entry into such a league as a fateful decision for Canada.

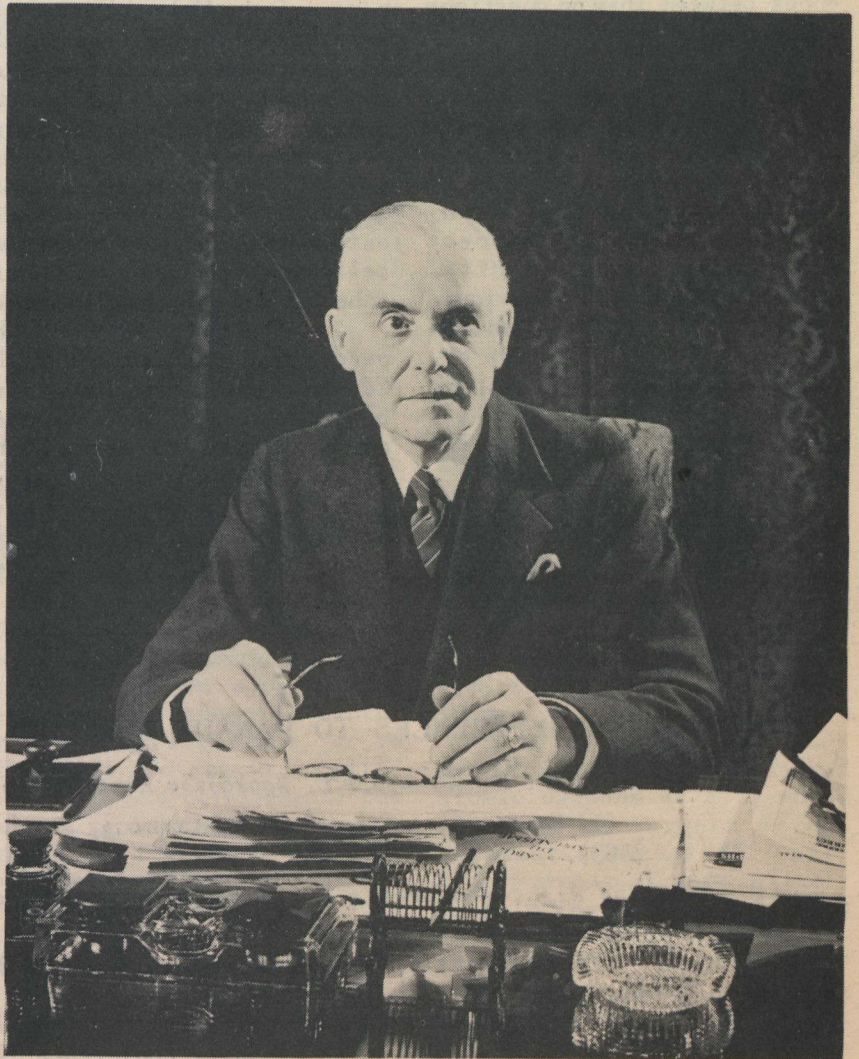
Why was it that the proposal met with unanimous support in the House of Commons from members of all political parties? I suggest it is because we, in Canada, are agreed upon the essential bases of our foreign policy.

We are agreed, to begin with, that totalitarian communist aggression constitutes a direct and immediate threat to every democratic country, including Canada. It endangers our freedom and our peace. It puts in jeopardy the values and virtues of the civilization of western Christendom of which we are heirs and defenders.

Secondly, we have come to a common realization of what communist totalitarianism means to the people subjected to its tyranny. We have seen the Bolsheviks create in Russia the most omnipotent and pervasive state in history. We have seen them take over what was the worst feature of the Czarist regime, the secret police, and expand it. The Soviet Government, though proclaimed by communist parties to be the champion of the oppressed, is itself an oppressor on a scale surpassing even Nazi Germany. It has already, in ten countries of Eastern Europe as well as in the Soviet Union itself, suppressed the freedom of millions of men and imposed a police regime upon them. It has demonstrated to us that the goal of social justice can never be reached by the commu-

From an address by the Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at an exhibitors' dinner in connection with the Canadian International Trade Fair. Toronto. June 11, 1948.

reaction with the Fascists on the extreme right and the forces of progress with the Communists on the extreme left. The reactionary parties are those which advocate a police state; and they are reactionary whether they call themselves Nazi, Fascist or Communist. The parties of progress



THE RIGHT HON. L.S. ST. LAURENT, P.C., M.P.

(National Film Board Photo)

nist methods of terror and violence. It has demonstrated that the division today is not, as the communists vainly assert, between the forces of

are those which advocate a free society. The police state, by coercion and regimentation, ultimately makes progress impossible. Only in a free soci-