

North Atlantic Treaty

tioned. Article 6 is a definition of the area within which the treaty has application. It reads as follows:

For the purpose of article 5 an armed attack on one or more of the parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the territory of any of the parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian departments of France, on the occupation forces of any party in Europe, on the islands under the jurisdiction of any party in the North Atlantic area north of the tropic of Cancer or on the vessels or aircraft in this area of any of the parties.

The effect of this article, therefore, is to limit the territory covered, and the obligation, to the North Atlantic area. It does not include colonial possessions or other territory outside the area which is defined.

Article 7 is a further statement of the purpose of the North Atlantic states to play their part as loyal members of the United Nations.

Then we come to article 8, which seemed to cause a certain anxiety in the mind of the leader of the Social Credit group when he made his distinguished speech on the draft treaty this afternoon. In article 8 the signatory states undertake to enter into no other obligations which conflict with this treaty. That is a normal and, I think, a useful provision in security treaties of this kind. It does not have the effect, Mr. Speaker—as I believe some hon. members have feared—of incorporating any other international agreements into the North Atlantic treaty or of giving any added sanction whatever to those agreements. As I understand it—and I certainly think I understand the interpretation that has been given to it by those who have negotiated this arrangement—it is merely a declaration of fact, and of intention, that the parties have not made, or will not make, any treaties or secret arrangements which are in conflict with the pacific purposes of this pact.

Article 9, to which I attach great importance, provides for the setting up of a North Atlantic council through which activities under the alliance shall be arranged. It further provides that the council shall set up whatever subsidiary bodies prove to be necessary; in particular, it shall establish immediately a defence committee.

In the North Atlantic council all the members of the group will be equally represented. Through it the democratic process of reaching agreement through negotiation, discussion and compromise will be carried out. In the event of emergency, the council will also be the instrument for deciding what policies shall be recommended to the members of the group. It is one thing for a group of states to accept, as we do under this draft treaty, common responsibilities, each undertaking its fair share in discharging them, and

indeed in adding to or subtracting from them. It is, however, quite a different thing for one, two or three states to make decisions which may have far-reaching consequences for all countries and all peoples, and then one, two or three of them to ask other countries to jump in and help in solving the problems which those decisions have created. There are, no doubt, times when the requirements for consultation, for discussion and for co-operative action must be subordinated to the necessities of a grave emergency. But if there is to be genuine collective action, those occasions must be reduced to a minimum. That is one reason why I attach so much importance to the council which will be set up under the proposed treaty and which is a genuine agency for collective consultation and collective decisions, in which Canada will have the opportunity of making its voice heard in regard to those collective decisions.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I must inform him that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Go ahead.

Mr. Speaker: With the consent of the house, the hon. member may continue.

Mr. Coldwell: Finish, and take your time.

Mr. Pearson: I should like to thank the house for its indulgence. I will not keep hon. members for long. There are just one or two more articles in this treaty, and when I deal with them I shall have finished.

Article 10 makes provision for the admission of any new European state to the group by the unanimous consent of its members if they are "in a position to further the principles of this treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area". That seems to me, Mr. Speaker, to rule out any state which is not in a position to further the democratic principles of this treaty.

Mr. Knowles: Such as Franco Spain?

Mr. Pearson: I think I will just leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. I think the definition is clear, and each member can apply it to each European state as he desires and sees fit.

Article 11 defines the procedure for ratification. As far as Canada is concerned, the government will not deposit its ratification until parliament has had a further opportunity to consider in detail and at length the terms of the treaty, and to give its approval. This article also declares—and this declaration is important—that the provisions of this treaty shall be "carried out by the parties in accordance with their respective constitutional processes". So far as Canada is concerned, this government regards those