

(4) That it would drive a wedge between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Of these only the first objection would still apply. It is one that is based more on prejudice than reason, and could, to some degree, be reduced by planned publicity.

One of the following courses might be followed by the Canadian Government:

(1) *To adhere to the Treaty*

The decision no longer involves adopting a policy conflicting with that of the United States; nor one actively opposed by certain racial minorities in Canada. It is probable that any *rapprochement* with the U.S.S.R. would be unwelcome to the majority of the Ukrainians, Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians. There would, be, however, no valid grounds for criticism of the terms of the treaty.

The real issue is whether the Canadian Government wishes to be a party to a defensive alliance which may or may not be absorbed in a wider framework of collective security. The principle of mutual assistance against aggression after the war will undoubtedly be considered by the United Nations at some stage. That consideration may be delayed; and it can be held that the present case does not demand a decision on the wider question of post-war international relations.

It is not, however, an academic question even at this time. The treaty may lead to close collaboration between the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. during and after the war. It may develop into an alliance of the Great Powers, so strong as to dominate world affairs. A present commitment might be justified by membership in a bloc so influential.

If adherence were decided on, or even considered, the other Dominions might be consulted.

(2) *To support the Treaty without adhering to it*

To have supported the treaty as earlier drafted would no doubt have been considered necessary, but could not have been done without difficulty.

The circumstances have now entirely changed, and the Canadian Government can, without embarrassment, express its unqualified approval. It is the more important that a member of the British Commonwealth and one of the United Nations should so express itself since a treaty has from the first been regarded as recognition of the part played in the common cause by the U.S.S.R. A strong lead by Canada might not be without influence on the other American nations.

To secure a favourable public opinion toward the treaty (both in Canada and the United States) the following steps are suggested:

- (a) A full explanation by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons.
- (b) The above explanation would form the basis of newspaper comment, but there might also be releases prepared by the Bureau of Public Information.