

possible aggressor that he would have to be prepared to overcome us all if he attempted any aggression".

On June 24, the Minister of National Defence, Hon. Brooke Claxton, speaking in the House of Commons on the defence estimates, said that one of Canada's present defence aims and objectives is to "work out with other free nations, plans for joint defence based on self-help and mutual aid as part of a combined effort to preserve peace and to restrain aggression." He went on to say that our present defence plans are flexible since they might require modification "if, as we hope, Western Union grows into a North Atlantic security understanding."

On September 7, speaking in Toronto, Mr. St. Laurent reported that "the Canadian Government has been urging at home and abroad, in public statements, and through diplomatic channels and discussions, the immediate establishment of a North Atlantic security system comprised of the United Kingdom, the United States and the free countries of Western Europe".

On September 21, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Hon. L.B. Pearson, speaking in Kingston, said:

"The Canadian Government has made it clear that it is not only willing, but anxious, to join the other North Atlantic democracies in establishing a regional collective security pact for the North Atlantic. As you know, representatives of the Canadian Government have been participating for over two months now in informal and exploratory discussions in Washington on the problems of security raised in the Vandenberg Resolution. These discussions have taken place between representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Benelux countries and Canada. All the governments concerned have agreed that no information about these discussions will be made public until a decision is reached. It is not, therefore, possible for me to tell you today how these discussions are going. I can, however, say that the Canadian Government has every reason to believe that the discussions will be fruitful; that Canada is playing a useful part in them.

The Canadian Government has also, since the end of July, had an observer present at the discussions in London of the Military Committee of the Brussels Powers - the United Kingdom, France and Benelux. The United States has also had observers present at these meetings. The reports of this Military Committee go to the Chiefs of Staff of the Brussels Treaty Powers and from them to the Defence Ministers of those five powers.

The Canadian Government has taken these steps towards the creation of an effective regional security system with, I am sure, the overwhelming support of the people of Canada. The people of Canada have given this support knowing that Canada's participation in such a security system may require that, in an emergency, we share not only our risks but our resources. It would, for instance, be the task of a North Atlantic security system, once it is established, to agree upon a fair allocation of duties among the participating countries, under which each will undertake to do that share of the joint defence and production job that it can do most efficiently.

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