

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): Did that apply to France's decision to withdraw from integration?

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: No, and that would not prevent Britain doing so either. We all regretted France's decision to withdraw from the integrated force structure. No one regretted it more than Britain. Britain took the initiative in the declaration we made affirming the conviction of the fourteen to continue to support the integrated force structure. No, Britain could do this. We could withdraw. All I am saying is that we are an organization of independent sovereign governments, and each government can do what it wants, but it does so at great peril to the Alliance and at great peril to itself, in our judgment, at the present time.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): Could the minister say, or would the minister say, or is it possible for him to say what precisely are our North Atlantic commitments to NATO; and are we in a position at the present time to carry out those commitments at sea?

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: I think we are living up fully to the commitments we have made and that have been asked of us in NATO. We are fulfilling all of our commitments to NATO, both in terms of assigned and earmarked forces.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): The minister is saying that in the event of war breaking out between NATO and the Warsaw countries at the present time, Canada, under its North Atlantic commitments, would have the ships and men to put to sea at the present time?

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: No. What I said was that we have lived up fully to our assigned and earmarked commitments.

Every year, SACEUR, in co-operation with the fifteen governments—now the fourteen—discusses and determines the military commitment of each partner. Ours has been determined. We have fully complied with that commitment.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): Could I ask one more question of the minister on Article 2?

The CHAIRMAN: Ask as many as you like, senator.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): Senator MacKenzie stresses Article 2, and throughout your excellent statement you mentioned again and again the economic co-operation that has gone on among NATO nations. I would like to ask you how you reconcile statements of that kind with the fact that six of the most powerful member nations in NATO, under their own treaty, have banded themselves together in a regional tariff bloc to militate against the goods of other NATO countries.

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: Would you repeat the first part of your question, please, senator?

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): The first part of my question is that you mentioned throughout your statement the economic co-operation that has gone on among NATO countries. This is under Article 2, which I believe was our article, and this was dealt with by Senator MacKenzie.

My question is: How do you reconcile this talk of economic co-operation among NATO countries with the fact that six of those nations, six of the most powerful of them, banded themselves together in a regional tariff bloc to combat or militate against the goods of other NATO countries?

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: I am sorry, senator. If this is your view, then what I said has not been understood. I said we did not realize the advantages anticipated by Article 2. I said that Canada has been among those countries responsible for the inclusion of a provision that in addition to military there should be economic collaboration, and I regretted to say there had not been within NATO this economic collaboration.