

How does this Treaty protect Canada? We have learned in two tragic and costly world wars that we cannot escape the consequences when some great act of aggression takes place. We do not forget the frightening time during the last war, when France had been overrun and the German armies stood at the Channel. The Nazi was looking at the white cliffs of Dover -- and beyond the Atlantic waters. Our very national existence in Canada was at stake. In the Spring of 1940 there were very few people in Canada, or even in the United States, who did not dread the result for us if the last outposts of freedom fell in Western Europe. Because our safety is linked with that of our neighbours, we know that the best way to keep the invader away from our shores and the hostile bomber out of our skies is to make sure that, if aggression occurs, it is stopped where it begins. We know also that to avoid war we must build peace -- actively, by working constantly with our neighbours in the Atlantic community for the conditions in which peace will exist.

What about the United Nations? Nothing in this proposed Treaty is in any conflict with the United Nations. Our loyalty to that organization is unchanged. Our willingness to carry out our obligations under its Charter continues. Our hope that through the agency of the United Nations we shall yet achieve universal collective security remains. We know, however, that the United Nations cannot at the present time guarantee our security. It would be madness to indulge in self-delusion and to pretend it does. We must therefore take such interim measures as we think necessary, with like minded peace-loving states, to gain the security the United Nations cannot now offer. But the Treaty specifically states that the obligations, under the Charter of the United Nations, of all those who sign the Atlantic Pact remain untouched. It is also provided that action against an aggressor under Article 5 shall cease once the Security Council of the United Nations has taken effective action to restore peace. The Charter itself specifically takes account of the fact that arrangements such as the North Atlantic Pact may be made by some member states.

The proposed North Atlantic Pact does not undercut or sidetrack the United Nations. In fact, we believe that by contributing to the stability and economic recovery of our part of the world, the members of this group of states strengthen the United Nations. Certainly we shall try to bring about that result.

There are some hopeful signs on the horizon today. The upheavals of a war, six years long and as wide as the whole circumference of the globe, left terrible problems and dangers. But the world is slowly recovering. This recovery can be wiped out, suddenly and tragically, by some rash act of aggression. The North Atlantic Treaty will both help and protect our recovery. It will help it by providing new channels for co-operation. It will protect it by demonstrating to any possible aggressor the determination of the free peoples to resist.

For the people of the North Atlantic community, the Treaty is a new beginning. It carries the promise of greater security and fuller co-operation amongst the nations. It spans an ocean to join two continents. It gives the many millions of people who live in this area a chance to develop together the principles and practices of international co-operation, under rules of law and conduct that are familiar to them. It holds out the hope of freedom, order and progress in a peaceful world.

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