

*North Atlantic Treaty*

into the faces of those fine young men who were in their prime, in their mere adolescence. One could easily see that in their faces there was no hatred against the Germans or against anyone. They were at the threshold of their new life. All they wanted was the opportunity of living, working and loving. However, as the result of a situation not of our own creation, we were obliged to answer the call that was sent across the sea by Great Britain and France and our allies for the defence of democracy. We were obliged to go to defend their soil because in doing so we were defending our own.

At that time I remember asking myself this question: How many of those fine young men who belong to loving families will leave within a few days or even within a few weeks to go over to Europe in order to defend the things which we so greatly cherish; and how many of them will remain eternally under the sod of Europe; and how many of them will come back here mutilated for life or broken in health for the rest of their days? I make that statement because I know we all realize that not a single Canadian desired war. The same principle applies just as forcibly today as it did four, five or seven years ago. Canada will never desire war, but at the same time we understand what is our implicit duty. When democracy, freedom of worship and freedom of speech are challenged in any part of the world, we understand that we then become our brothers' keepers, and that we must of necessity help in that situation.

Does France desire war? France certainly does not desire war. An impartial study of what heroic France did from 1914 to 1918 shows that France lost almost an entire generation—five million men who sleep their last sleep in the sacred soil of France. After world war I, after the treaty of Versailles, she found out that she had suddenly become the bad actor in the play, when even the promises made by the United States of help in case of necessity, and even the promises made by Great Britain of help when France would be in danger, were taken away; and when those things were taken away from France, she began to despair.

Then in 1939, when the nations that had promised to give her help when help should be necessary, were not there, France found in her soul a lassitude which ultimately led to her defeat on the battlefield. France suffered in those years from 1914 to 1918. I know that we all realize and appreciate the heroic role that she played at that time, that she also played in the last war and is still playing at the present time. No, Mr. Speaker, France and the French people do not desire war. It is true that in the past France has

been the battlefield of Europe, but she does not want that event to occur again. This generation does not desire to fill that role again. That is why I say that the Atlantic pact will do for France what the league of nations has not done for her from 1918 on. France must be realistic, because she has suffered in her soul. She has suffered in her national life, through the loss of life among her own sons, to such an extent that in 1939 she could not afford the sacrifices that were demanded of her in 1914-18.

Does Great Britain desire war? Some people said—and perhaps rightly—that prior to 1914 Great Britain was a satiated empire, meaning that she had all the territory that she desired, and a well-balanced economy. Her flag was flying on all the seas of the world. It was well said that the sun never set on her holdings. She did not desire war in 1914, but she was obliged to suffer to a great extent because of her territorial expansion throughout the world.

Great Britain did not desire war in 1939, because that fine and proud nation had to humiliate herself, go to Munich and practically kneel before Hitler, that dictator, and ask him for peace in our time. Great Britain knew that the situation was dangerous but she did not flinch. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Great Britain and her people who were, for over one year when she was alone, the only human rampart against the hordes of barbarism from across the strait of Dover. She not only suffered loss of wealth, but she suffered through her people, her young children, the sick—she suffered in her cities and towns, in her dales and valleys—in every section.

I had always been skeptical to a certain extent when anyone mentioned to me the bulldog spirit when we were speaking of the British people. But there was a clear demonstration of the real bulldog spirit during the last war, because I maintain that it was only because of that spirit that she was able to stand, when she was for over one year alone, against the hordes of Hitler and Mussolini. No, Great Britain cannot desire war. All she desires at the present time is peace in every section of the world. Great Britain will be signing the Atlantic pact because she wants to be left to herself to develop her own culture, to work out her own way of living and of civilization. This will not be allowed again, because we must remember this. We must be realists. During the last war many British, United States and Canadian newspapers were asking and begging the British government and the British royal family to come onto Canadian soil. In that instance,