

in Europe. This was only done after consideration and approval by NATO military and political authorities, some of them, incidentally, with great military experience, whose advice must be respected. This was the way in which NATO and our own experts decided our contribution could most usefully be made at this time. It would also, of course, have been possible to have sent arms and equipment to the soldiers of Europe, and have kept our own men at home. This, however, would not have been the recommendation of NATO, and it would also, I think, have been contrary to our own best interests. It certainly would be disastrous for the common defence, if the United States decided to withdraw its troops and replace them by equipment for the Europeans. If I were a European, my reaction to that policy would be a vigorous one. On the other hand, the presence in Europe in peace-time of the forces of both their North American allies is tangible evidence that if - which God forbid - there should ever again be a Western Front, we will all be there from the beginning. There is nothing that can do more to strengthen the morale and the unity of the North Atlantic alliance than this conviction. In any event, Canadians are not, I think, a people who would desire their contribution to the strengthening of their own defences in Western Europe to take the form of arms alone, while other people provided the troops.

The important thing is, however, not so much the detailed manner in which we discharge our obligations, as the fact that we do so. Canada, I do not need to assure you, will not fail here. We are not accustomed to default on our obligations.

Those obligations, however, which are necessary both for our safety and our progress, will be heavy for some time to come. The day has certainly not yet arrived when their lessening will make it possible to transform defence expenditures into tax reductions.

In Canada today we are building, solidly and well, I think, for a good future, but neither this country nor any other country, will have a future at all if there is World War III. The prevention of that ultimate tragedy, therefore, is the goal of our foreign policy today and of all the actions and decisions that go to make it up.

Peace, I know, is, in a sense, more of a prayer than a policy. If so, it is a prayer which is in all our hearts and every move we make in the difficult days ahead must be devoted to its realization.

---