

Mr. GRAYDON: Is the distribution or allocation of these commanders just on the basis of the contribution that is made?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No. That is a very important criterion, but it is not the only one. We have, of course, nothing to complain about ourselves. I know there have been countries which have been disturbed about the allocation of commanders; but that will be worked out, and it is being worked out now.

Mr. GRAYDON: One more question: What will Canada's position be in respect to the proposal to include Turkey and Greece in the North Atlantic Council?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Were you present when I talked about that subject? I made quite a statement about it.

Mr. GRAYDON: I am afraid that I was not here at the time. I am sorry. But if it is on the record, then very well.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Yes, it is on the record.

Mr. PICARD: My question is more related to the Hon. Mr. Pearson's answer given to Mr. Robinson. The minister stated that by a given time which he did not care to mention at the moment, he thought all the different countries in Europe would have forces sufficient enough to discourage any similar aggressor.

The other day in the House of Commons the Minister of National Defence stated that if given time, we would have a certain number of troops. Has he got the impression that possibly an aggressor would give us all that time, and that an aggressor would be nice enough to wait until we were adequately armed?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I do not think we can count on a possible aggressor giving us any time at all. Moreover, if we knew he was going to commit an aggression next week, we would not be able to reach the safety mark in that time.

Mr. PICARD: The Intelligence Service must give us certain information which might lead us to believe whether or not we have time.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Intelligence suggests that we should do all we can.

Mr. CROLL: We are not talking about General MacArthur's intelligence service now, are we?

The CHAIRMAN: No. I will see that that is kept out at least.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Intelligence suggests what we should do. Political intelligence, military intelligence, and all kinds of intelligence suggest that we of the North Atlantic Pact and of the free world should do all we can and as quickly as we can. That has to be reconciled with the necessity of maintaining a strong economic and social structure while we are doing it. We do not know, unfortunately, whether we are in a sprint or a marathon. If it is a marathon and we start off at a one hundred yards pace, we may get into trouble. But if it is a sprint and we start off at a marathon's pace, we will certainly get into trouble. It is a matter of judging one's pace in the light of such information as may be available so that both efforts will be in balance. Every democratic government has that problem to face at the present time, and on the way it is faced will depend to a good extent our success in meeting developments ahead.

Mr. PICARD: May I ask one further question. Are you satisfied from the information you have that the countries in Europe, in regard to the arms plan, are doing their best, or are any of them lagging behind?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I am quite satisfied that all the European countries are aware of the situation. They are on the very front line, if there is trouble—and they are doing all they think they can do to meet that situation. It is easy for a country in a different position to look at what the other fellow is doing or not doing, and to compare one contribution with another.