

North Atlantic Treaty

acceptance by this house of a protocol which will add Greece and Turkey to our numbers in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Canada, Mr. Speaker, owes much to the glory that was Greece two thousand years ago, and owes much to the courage that is Greece today. Therefore we welcome the membership of Greece in this association as strengthening and deepening the ties which already unite our two countries.

As for Turkey, the Turks have shown, both with us and against us, that they are steady and do not panic, and that they do not frighten easily. These are qualities, Mr. Speaker, which will stand us all in good stead today, qualities I may add which I learned during the years 1915 and 1916 in the Mediterranean that Turkey possessed.

A good many points have been raised in the discussion of this resolution which went somewhat beyond the purpose of the resolution itself, as indeed it was desirable to do. They probably deserve a longer reply than I am able to give today. I know the house regrets—this was specifically mentioned by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low)—that a discussion of this kind had to come in the closing hours of the session. All of us could have wished that this discussion—it is hardly a debate—had taken place earlier, and that there had been more time for questioning. I know hon. members will realize that it has not been the policy of this government, in matters of foreign affairs, to conceal anything from this house or from the country that could be told to the house or to the country. And if I do not go into all these matters in as much detail in the closing moments of this session as I would desire and the house would desire, I am sure it will be appreciated that it is owing to the circumstances in which we find ourselves at this moment. However, I would like to deal with some of the points that have been raised.

In the first place, I should like to comment on one or two of the observations made by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew). He spent some time on our armament program, and what he considered to be the inadequacies of the program and the progress that has been made in regard to it. I do not intend to go into that in any detail except to make one reference to rifles. It may be that our production of rifles in this country is not as great as any of us would desire; but it is also the case, Mr. Speaker—and I think this is well known to members of the house—that the Canadian government have been doing everything they can to bring about in the North Atlantic countries standardization of this weapon so that in an emergency we

[Mr. Pearson.]

would all be using the same rifle, something that is obviously desirable. I think it is fair to say that we have taken a very active part in attempting to standardize rifles, but so far that standardization has not met with agreement on the part of all the members of the council. I should think it would be obviously sensible not to begin the manufacture of a rifle in Canada which a few months from now might be not the rifle agreed upon as the one to be used by the North Atlantic powers. We must hope that agreement will be reached very shortly indeed. Possibly a good deal of progress may be made in this important matter as a result of the visit Mr. Churchill is going to make to Washington very shortly.

The leader of the opposition also said that this was a good time for me to tell the house—I have been asked this already today—how we voted in the recent elections to the security council of the United Nations at the general assembly in Paris. It is, I think, a desirable principle that voting in these elections to United Nations agencies should be kept secret. We do vote in secret. Delegations are not supposed to know how other delegations vote, and there seems to me to be a good reason for that. The leader of the opposition himself stated that otherwise countries might be subjected, especially the smaller countries, to intolerable pressure, and the independence which they desire to exercise as members of the United Nations might be prejudiced if voting became known in this way. But, as the leader of the opposition has said, the voting is now over. It took place some time ago, and this might be a good occasion to inform the house of the action we took. I think he said—and I hope I am quoting him correctly—that he understood it was already known in Paris how we voted. The report in the newspaper which he read indicates that at least some people in Paris or some people in Canada do not know how we voted because that report was inaccurate.

When the first ballot was taken at the elections to the security council in Paris the Canadian delegation voted for Greece, Mr. Speaker; and when the eighteenth ballot, I think the last, was taken, Canada voted for Greece.

Mr. Sinclair: Drew is wrong as usual.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, even having regard to the source of that interjection, and remembering that there is a *Hansard* record, I do not intend to permit that to pass unchallenged. There was nothing wrong, and it was a most unjustified remark, because if the member had been paying any attention—

Mr. Sinclair: I was.