

*North Atlantic Treaty*

decide what shall be done in a given eventuality. This would also enable an informed public opinion to decide whether or not a reported incident is an overt act that would justify action under the treaty. Parliament will have the obligation to obtain and consider all the information which it can possibly get bearing on the matter, and to make its decision according to the facts.

The recognition of sovereign rights no doubt has been accepted particularly because of the constitutional position of the congress of the United States. They are indeed implicit also in the constitutions of all democratic nations. This fact was recognized in the United Nations charter and will only disappear when government at the international level has been established and when a single police force can operate in the world to protect peace-loving nations just as police forces now operate in all civilized states to protect peaceful citizens.

Before I conclude, let me add that the C.C.F., at its national convention in August, 1948, approved the idea of a western European union for economic co-operation and security. Our national council, in January, carefully considered all that was then known of the extension of that union into a North Atlantic security pact, and gave its approval to the principles involved. The principles now before us do not differ from those foreshadowed before the terms outlined in the proposed treaty were made public.

Speaking in the House of Commons on January 31 last, I placed on the record, after consultation with our caucus, the entire statement of the national council which had met a few days before. The statement included these words:

The C.C.F. believes that Canada should support and join a North Atlantic security pact.

Today we reiterate this statement as the official position of the C.C.F. party in this country, arrived at through thorough discussion in the most democratic manner. The nations joining together in the North Atlantic treaty have in their resources, both industrial and human, an overwhelming superiority in strength. This superiority in strength does not threaten war anywhere on earth. Our peoples are peace-loving, in the best sense of the word. The fear that is widespread—and I admit that it is widespread in our own country—that this security pact may be a step in the direction of a third world war, is in itself an indication that the people of the democracies will not permit their governments to wage aggressive warfare, even under great provocation from any other nation or group of nations.

The very strength that lies in the nations agreeing to the North Atlantic security pact

will enable us to act in a firm but conciliatory manner toward the soviet union and its satellite nations or toward any other nation which commits aggression by the use of armed force, or threatens aggression in any regard. If we do this, as I believe we shall, then the Atlantic security pact will be indeed a pact of peace enabling the world to move steadily toward the kind of world security which was contemplated in the United Nations charter.

The hope of mankind lies in universal peace. This, it seems to me, can best be secured at the present time by joining with other free and peace-loving nations in expressing a determination to resist all threats of aggression. At the same time we must insist that universal peace and security will depend in the final analysis on the extent to which poverty, misery and want are banished from the world. In such a security system Canada can play an important role. The world is divided into two blocs. We have no warlike ambitions. We desire peace for ourselves and for all mankind. That, I am convinced, is the desire of the masses everywhere. It is that desire which has brought into the North Atlantic security pact such nations as Norway and Denmark, nations which are adjacent to soviet Russia, much nearer indeed than the distances which were noted this afternoon.

I am certain also that neither the American nor the Russian people want war. Working in co-operation with the western European peoples who would be the first to suffer in an armed conflict, Canada can do much to preserve peace and to promote understanding. By agreeing to a satisfactory regional security pact we have at least a chance of influencing the course of events and maintaining our national independence. Isolation would deny the one and jeopardize the other.

Of course there are dangers in such a regional security pact. Russia and her European allies have, it is believed, fifty divisions ready for war. It is estimated that she could put an additional fifty divisions into the field within a month. The western European democratic countries have only ten divisions amongst them. The danger is of course that, in equipping western Europe with modern war equipment, recovery may be deferred and a dangerous armament race promoted. That is a danger we must guard against. It is because of this danger that we hope the determination of the North Atlantic nations to stand together against aggression may bring about a real attempt to eliminate all potential causes of war and to establish world security at last, within the United Nations. In any event, without the security