

be willing to enter such a league. I referred to entry into such a league as a fateful decision for Canada.

"Why was it that the proposal met with unanimous support in the House of Commons from members of all political parties? I suggest it is because we, in Canada, are agreed upon the essential bases of our foreign policy.

"In the interests of the peoples of both worlds—the Communist and the Free—we believe that it must be made clear to the rulers of the totalitarian Communist states that if they attempt by direct or indirect aggression to extend their police states beyond their present bounds by subduing any more free nations, they will not succeed unless they can overcome us all.

"The best guarantee of peace today is the creation and preservation by the nations of the Free World, under the leadership of Great Britain, the United States and France, of an overwhelming preponderance of force over any adversary or possible combination of adversaries. This force must not be only military; it must be economic; it must be moral. Just as in the last war, so also today, we are engaged in a 'struggle for the control of men's minds and men's souls'.

"Victory in war requires a pooling of risks and a pooling of resources. Victory over war requires a similar pooling by the Free Nations. Such a pooling cannot take place unless we realize that the giving of aid to an ally is not charity but self-help.

"We know that, divided, the Free Nations may fall, one by one, before the forces of totalitarian tyranny working within and without their borders, but that, united they can preserve freedom and peace for all. Let us be not only willing but anxious to unite."

On June 19, in the House of Commons, Mr. St. Laurent said that the attitude of the Canadian Government on this matter might justly be described as a "crusade". He said that the Canadian Government thought there would be value in a regional pact whereby the Western European democracies, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada "agreed to stand together, to pool for defence purposes our respective potentials and co-ordinate right away our forces, so that it would appear to any possible aggressor that he would have to be prepared to overcome us all if he attempted any aggression".

On June 24, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, speaking in the House of Commons on the defence estimates, said that one of Canada's present defence aims and objectives is to "work out with other free nations, plans for joint defence based on self-help and mutual aid as part of a combined effort to preserve peace and to restrain aggression". He went on to say that our present defence plans are flexible since they might require modification "if, as we hope, Western Union grows into a North Atlantic security understanding".

On September 7, speaking in Toronto, Mr. St. Laurent reported that "the Canadian Government has been urging at home and abroad, in public statements, and through diplomatic channels and discussions, the immediate establishment of a North Atlantic security system comprised of the United Kingdom, the United States and the free countries of Western Europe".

On September 21, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, speaking in Kingston, said:

"The Canadian Government has made it clear that it is not only willing, but anxious, to join the other North Atlantic democracies in establishing a regional collective security pact for the North Atlantic. As you know, representatives of the Canadian Government have been participating for over two months now in informal and exploratory discussions in Washington on the problems of security raised in the Vandenberg Resolution. These discussions have taken place between representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Benelux countries and Canada. All the governments concerned have agreed that no information about these discussions will be made public until a decision is reached. It is not, therefore, possible for me to tell you today how these discussions are going. I can, however, say that the Canadian Government has every reason to believe that the discussions will be fruitful; that Canada is playing a useful part in them.

"The Canadian Government has also, since the end of July, had an observer present at the discussions in London of the Military Committee of the Brussels Powers—the United Kingdom, France and Benelux. The United States has also had observers present at these meetings. The reports of this Military Committee go to the Chiefs of