

Conference, member nations are exploring other methods by which they might achieve mutual collective security. I would like briefly to refer to the position of my Government regarding Article 51 of the Charter which begins with the words "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence".

The position of the Canadian Government on this matter was made clear by our Prime Minister, March 17, 1948 when he commented on the Brussels Five-Power Treaty. He then said,

"This pact is far more than an alliance of the old kind. It is a partial realization of the idea of collective security by an arrangement made under the Charter of the United Nations. As such, it is a step towards peace, which may well be followed by other similar steps until there is built up an association of all free states which are willing to accept responsibilities of mutual assistance to prevent aggression and preserve peace... The Canadian Government has been closely following recent developments in the international sphere. The peoples of all free countries may be assured that Canada will play her full part in every movement to give substance to the conception of an effective system of collective security by the development of regional pacts under the Charter of the United Nations."

Ten months ago, at the General Assembly, one possible line of development in this field was outlined by Mr. St. Laurent. He then stated that it was not necessary to contemplate the break-up of the United Nations in order to build up a stronger security system within the United Nations. Without sacrificing the universality of the United Nations it is possible for the free nations of the world to form their own close association for collective self-defence under Article 51. Such an association could be created within the United Nations by those free states which are willing to accept more specific and onerous obligations than those contained in the Charter, in return for greater national security than the United Nations can now give its members.

Recently, on April 29, 1948, in a speech in the Canadian House of Commons, Mr. St. Laurent said, —

"Canada and the United States need the assistance of the Western European democracies just as they need ours. The spread of aggressive Communist despotism over Western Europe would ultimately almost certainly mean for us war, and war on most unfavourable terms. It is in our national interest to see to it that the flood of Communist expansion is held back. Our foreign policy today must, therefore, I suggest, be based on a recognition of the fact that totalitarian Communist aggression endangers the freedom and peace of every democratic country, including Canada. On this basis and pending the strengthening of the United Nations, we should be willing to associate ourselves with other free states in any appropriate collective security arrangements which may be worked out under Articles 51 or 52 of the Charter. In the circumstances of the present, the organization of collective defence in this way is the most effective guarantee of peace. The pursuit of this course, steadfastly, unprovocatively and constructively, is our best hope for disproving the gloomy predictions of inevitable war."

I would not think it necessary to add anything to this clear language used recently by our Secretary of State for External Affairs.