

results. I mean all ten nations both on the Eastern side and the Western side. If they all genuinely want disarmament in the world today then there will be disarmament.

The second subject is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO is essentially a defensive alliance and it has fulfilled this function. After all, it was set up to prevent aggression by the Eastern nations. Whether or not they would have committed aggression no one can say but there has been no aggression during these ten years. NATO continues to fulfil that same function today and must continue to do so until there is actual controlled disarmament.

Canada is doing her full share in the alliance. We have a magnificent brigade of troops in Europe and we have a thoroughly efficient air division which, next to the air forces of the United States, is the most powerful and effective air force in NATO today.

Sometimes when I hear of the criticism of the Department of National Defence I think it would be worthwhile for Canadians to recognize the fact that in peacetime Canada has abroad a permanent-force army. How difficult it is for any old soldier from the First World War to realize that. I think back to those days when my one ambition was to fulfil the terms of the song "When I get my civvy clothes on, Oh how happy I will be". I remember how everybody wanted to get out of Europe by the first boat and what a job it was to get them sorted out because everybody thought he should be on the first boat. The same thing was true of the Second War. We now have a permanent-force army and a permanent air force stationed in Europe. I repeat that Canada can hold her head high because of the contribution that is being made by her young men to the strength of NATO.

NATO Comradeship

There is in that organization a spirit of comradeship built up over the last ten years which is very strong. These fifteen nations understand each other's viewpoint. There have been friendships made which will last for a lifetime. The leaders of all these countries are on the very best of terms and fundamentally the foundations of NATO go very deep. I do not believe there is any chance of the NATO alliance breaking up. Most of the European members of that alliance have made an outstanding economic recovery. They are in a very strong position; for example, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Some, of course, are not in such a good position. Naturally there are problems.

Here you have these 15 nations and, as I say, there are problems. One which has worried Canada considerably has been to ensure adequate consultation. Last fall the big powers were talking about a summit meeting and other subjects and they were not agreeing. One thought this should be done and another thought that should be done, and instead of going to the NATO Council and airing their troubles there they said nothing about them. All the press in all the NATO countries started to speculate, as the press will do quite naturally. The press made quite a lot of good guesses, and the whole story was on the front page of