

North Atlantic Treaty

remain relentlessly firm and vigilant in the containment of these satanic forces. True, we should not lightly throw stones at the communistic adultresses abroad because our own individual, social and international consciences are not without sin. Our norm of morality has not been always equal to the precepts of the divine Peace-Maker which we are now called upon to uphold and defend. We must be courageous enough, however, and sufficiently spiritually-conscious to unhesitatingly choose the Christian way instead of the other.

It is to be deeply regretted that, the sacredness and righteousness of our cause being so evident, those who drafted the United Nations charter and the projected North Atlantic treaty did not see fit to insert at least once in the text the words "God", "eternal destiny of man", "spiritual and moral values". The preamble to the proposed pact would be strengthened if it contained the following assertion of faith:

They believe in God, the eternal destiny of man, and the safeguarding of moral and spiritual values.

The proposed North Atlantic treaty, although reticent in its text and only regional in its scope, affords at least partial assurance against the further progress of evil forces. It behooves all Canadians, therefore, in all the provinces without exception, to approve and support it.

It has been suggested in an official communique appearing in the press of March 19, 1949, that Canada hail with enthusiasm the proposed North Atlantic treaty. One cannot easily enthuse over the admission of failure by the security council of the United Nations to discharge its primary obligation of maintaining international peace and security, and the belated acknowledgment that Russia, by its abuse of the veto, never wanted an effective international enforcement agency. How can one enthuse over the apparent failure of an organization on which the civilized world had pinned its hopes for enduring peace, and over the confession of our statesmen that they have mistakenly relied on the good faith of a regime that has, from its inception, openly admitted as its goal world revolution, destruction of the Christian faith and the "construction of a communist society"?

It is my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, that the thoughts of my constituents and of the people of the province of Quebec as to the treaty now before us for approval can be summarized as follows: Although we believe and will always believe in the autonomy and sovereignty of Canada and its exclusive and absolute right to decide—unhindered, unthreatened and unfettered—which course it should follow in the realm of international

affairs, we shall fully approve, not with enthusiasm nor gladness in our hearts but with a deep sense of responsibility towards our fellowmen and ourselves, the North Atlantic treaty. We shall do so, not only to ensure the integrity of our territory, our political independence and our autonomy, but especially to underline our deep attachment to the Christian principles which should guide nations as well as individuals; our religious beliefs; our unshakable faith in the eternal destiny of mankind and the superiority of spiritual and moral values over the material. And because in Quebec, we remain unashamed to pray, we shall pray that the full implementation of the treaty will bring to our world peace, freedom and security.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, by concluding in French I only wish to do my humble share to encourage this praiseworthy and growing habit of introducing more French in the debates of the House of Commons. I wish to emphasize that the province of Quebec is being wrongly accused of hostility towards the North Atlantic pact or of trying to isolate itself in its small corner of the country, as is sometimes said. My fellow citizens perfectly understand the present international situation. They came freely to the conclusion that the pact will protect their sovereignty and autonomy as well their religious, political and cultural institutions. I can state without fear of being mistaken, Mr. Speaker, that all Canadians of the province of Quebec, whatever be their racial origin, will unanimously approve this pact.

Mr. Frederic Dorion (Charlevoix-Saguenay):

Mr. Speaker, at the outset I wish to state very clearly my attitude on this question, which is generally acknowledged to be the most important of any that have been submitted to this house. The Atlantic treaty carries with it consequences of the utmost gravity for the signatory nations, consequences which will affect the economy of our country and the very life of our countrymen, especially those who may be called upon to serve in our armed forces.

Because of the well-known objective of the Kremlin, because of the manifest desire of the communists to spread their ideology throughout the world by any and every means, because of their refusal to co-operate with other nations in the establishment of an enduring peace, which is the goal of all civilized nations, and, more than anything, because of the real danger of sudden armed aggression against one or more of the countries which are not under communist control,