

look upon the Treaty merely as a military alliance. Canadians see the Treaty as an expression of the reality of the North Atlantic community and of the determination of that community to strengthen its free institutions, to promote conditions of stability and well-being, and to defend the liberty of each of the nations belonging to it. Our common defence is the immediate and urgent goal of the North Atlantic Treaty. But there is no reason why we should lose sight of the farther horizon - the ultimate creation in the Atlantic area of a great community of free nations. In the face of a common danger, under the stern remorseless threat to our survival, we twelve nations of the Atlantic have come together to pool our resources that we may survive. In the process we are developing new working institutions, and, what is possibly even more important, a common desire to make them work. They concern not only purely military things, but inevitably too, the economics and the politics of joint effort. In our struggle for security from a very present threat, we are developing a new consciousness of Atlantic unity, the results of which may far exceed our immediate purposes and expectations. May we not in these past two years have taken at least the first steps toward something much greater and more positive - a genuine community of the Atlantic?

This is a long-term objective which, of course, has to be subordinated at present to the exigencies of the immediate situation in which we find ourselves. We are defending ourselves against a threat which is not regional, but global. It is undeniable that the increased defence efforts to which we are each committed in the North Atlantic area were directly stimulated by the Communist aggression in Korea. Korea also has shown us that an Atlantic Alliance cannot isolate itself from Pacific questions. It is not necessary for me to emphasize the difficulties with which we are faced, the inter-relationship of those difficulties, and the importance of giving the most serious study to any new steps affecting the future course of action of our organization. A year ago the NATO powers embarked on a policy of deterring further Soviet expansionism at a time when Western strength was really inadequate to the task and when the Soviet reaction could not be foreseen with any degree of certainty. This policy has had its effect and, with the gradual, if somewhat uneven, growth of Western strength during the ensuing year, we are undoubtedly in a better position as a group than at the outset. This does not, however, mean that the dangers of the situation have been overcome, or that the NATO powers can afford to undertake new commitments without carefully examining each new proposal in the light of our increasing but still inadequate armed strength, and without the fullest consultation on all political aspects. Since we are now approaching what is considered by all parties to the Treaty to be the period of greatest danger it behoves us all to take new decisions with full knowledge of the issues involved - political as well as strategic. In those decisions, we will often have to consider and to balance short-term and long-term factors.

A second potential danger is the fact that the course of international developments, and the technique of Communist strategy, may cause the focal point of our attention to be drawn away from the area which, I think, remains the one of principal concern - Western Europe. In recent months the limelight has tended to shift to the Far East, and more recently to the middle East as a result of the Iranian crisis and the problem of the relationship of Greece and Turkey to Western defence planning. Although the Soviet Union may have played some part in bringing to a head these Middle Eastern problems, the problems themselves are not of the Soviet Union's making. They do, however, lend themselves admirably to the Soviet practice of fishing in troubled waters and diverting attention from more vital areas. We should perhaps remind ourselves more frequently that the need to preserve the integrity of Western Europe and the United Kingdom, as the Eastern frontier of the Atlantic community, was what originally inspired the formation of NATO and remains to-day its principal objective. This does not