

North Atlantic Treaty

Organization itself. From the military point of view, Turkey has an army whose estimated strength in 1951 was about 500,000 soldiers; Greece had not quite so many. Nevertheless, both countries are in a position, with the support of the great nations, to be able to say that they are not coming in as poor relations. They are coming in on an equal footing and are making a contribution that I think will be of inestimable value to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a whole. That is the way I like to see nations come in with us. I like to see them come in on an equal footing, on a proper partnership basis; because only then may we be able truly to assess the kind of contribution we all may make.

There will be Canadians, of course, who will naturally look upon this accession of Greece and Turkey in the Middle East as coming somewhat strangely after what has happened in the past in certain connections in that area. The Canadian memory is a long one. It is not so long ago that this government declined to send to a Middle East location, at a commonwealth defence conference there, any full-fledged delegates from this country; and that was a conference dealing with problems in that area that NATO now will be dealing with. It is true that the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) said that we were sending an observer. We are not asking Greece and Turkey to come in as observers; we are not going into NATO as observers. We are going in meaning business as a country. It seems to me that many people will perhaps lift their eyebrows over the fact that not so many months ago we were only prepared to send an observer, so little was our interest, seemingly, in Middle Eastern problems. Now, of course, we are going into it on a full-fledged basis. That is no argument against our going in on a full-fledged basis, but I point out that there is an inconsistency there that a sensitive Canadian public, so far as our commonwealth is concerned, will not fail to discern as this program goes forward.

Mr. Pouliot: Will my hon. friend permit a question?

Mr. Graydon: Yes.

Mr. Pouliot: By full-fledged membership, he means active membership, does he?

Mr. Graydon: In NATO, yes. I think everybody will realize that our membership in NATO is an active membership; and I hope that it will become more active as the days go by.

In that same area there was and is today a problem with respect to the Egyptian

[Mr. Graydon.]

matter as well. I can recall that the government took some little time in the house before they were prepared to make a statement on that Middle Eastern problem in support of Britain which was at the time extremely hard pressed. I want to point those things out to the government only to indicate to them that in matters relating to Middle Eastern problems or to any other problems throughout the world, where a matter concerns us—whether it be Britain or whether it be some other country—I think that we as a nation deserve to take a forthright stand. That is one of the reasons why I am so glad that this stand has been taken at this time in connection with our NATO organization in the accession of these two important nations.

I have no intention of going further in connection with that matter, except to ask the minister one question which he will perhaps take occasion to reply to when he rises to close the debate. Now that we have established in this matter a somewhat new principle may I ask the minister this? It is, in a sense, a new principle, because prior to this time we were only in a North Atlantic community; now we have extended the principle, if you like, to another community, geographically speaking. Having done that, may I ask the minister whether the North Atlantic Treaty Organization council has in mind the taking into membership any other countries than Greece and Turkey? If so, what are those countries? Also, if I may ask the minister this, what will be the policy which will guide the council in the admission of additional nations from time to time? Perhaps he would also indicate to us whether this is the beginning of a world-wide alliance with respect to the lines between the slave and the free world.

I also want to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the house, that when the minister was speaking about the various economic and military ramifications of our commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, he did not get down to anything that looked to me like even a hint of a cold fact anywhere. It may be that he will say to me: Of course we are going to discuss all these things at Lisbon. What I say, Mr. Speaker, is that we should be discussing in Canada some of the things that we are going to do as well as discussing them at Rome, Lisbon or London. I do not think that any harm will come to this country's representations and its conference activities in other lines if we have a full and frank discussion on the floor of this