

But in these second war and post-war years, all of us learned some lessons of great importance about peace. We learned that peace could not be achieved by leaving the job of securing it to others; by refusing to make commitments in advance; or by shutting our eyes to the reality of the threat of force designed to achieve world domination. Above all, we learned that, in the face of a determined aggressor, to be weak is to invite disaster, and to be alone is to ensure defeat.

So in 1945, from the rubble and destruction of World War Two, there emerged a great hope and a great principle. The hope was that through the United Nations we might succeed, in the words of the Charter, "in saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind."

Canada's support for the United Nations at that time and our support now is based on the principle that aggression could only be prevented or defeated through the organization of collective security. That principle was right then, and it is right today. But we - and others - were gradually forced, through our experience of the events of 1945, '46 and '47, to recognize that the unanimity of the Great Powers on which the prospect of collective security through United Nations action was originally planned had yielded to mistrust and deep hostility. Instead of the peace for which we so earnestly hoped, we felt the icy breath of the "cold war."

So we were compelled by events to organize the collective security envisaged under the Charter through other, more limited agencies, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In company with other free states in the Atlantic community and elsewhere, and in response to the threat we felt, Canada decided to increase and to pool its defence effort, and to assume, in advance, far-reaching and precise commitments for collective defence and security.

Then in June 1950, the aggression in Korea exposed the global nature of the threat to us all. When it broke on an almost unsuspecting world, the United Nations reacted with a speed and vigour which heartened its friends and confounded its critics. The Korean aggression placed a large sector of the free world on the alert. It showed the immensity of the challenge. It exposed the nature of the forces - both physical and psychological - which the free world faced, and the vast dimensions of the struggle in which our generation was engaged.

...So forces from Canada, and other Members of the United Nations moved to the scene of battle alongside their comrades from the United States, who, along with the free Koreans, bore, and continue to bear, the brunt of the struggle.

These events across the Pacific had an immediate effect on NATO planning in Europe. Effective forces and equipment were stationed in increasing numbers on the frontiers where history and experience have convinced us the main immediate danger still lies.

They are there for one reason only - to deter or to resist aggression and to make peace possible. Canadians - almost without exception - approve of our own participation in this effort.

The price Canadians are paying for the maintenance of our growing defences - at home and abroad - is - for a nation of 14 millions - substantial. In 1939 we were spending only about 38 million dollars for defence. This year we are spending more than two billion dollars - or in terms of the total national income of the United States - the equivalent of about 38 billion dollars.