"Grouped around the most powerful democracy in the world, the states signatory to the Atlantic Pact constitute at once the most formidable and the most sincerely peaceful coalition of material and moral forces that has ever been set up by nations to ensure their security and to spare the world the horrors of war.

"In the absence of any coercive force belonging to the United Nations, the treaty of assistance and mutual aid among the twelve Western countries constitutes the most effective guaranty possible for them, a guaranty that is essential in a world where distrust prevails, a world divided by political and ideological conceptions that are radically opposed, with all the risks and dangers that this state of things involves.

"The nations of the West never wanted this division. It is not their concern that other nations have a regime different from theirs, and they ask only normal relations with the East. If, a year ago, five of them placed themselves on the defensive in concluding the Brussels Pact, and if, today, the United States and Canada are in their turn joining the ten European countries to organize collective defense and the maintenance of peace, security, and liberty in the North Atlantic community, it is because their unceasing efforts to find common solutions with the countries of the East in important matters have been met with constant intransigence and because, in a word, the policy of conciliation followed by the Western countries has found no echo in the East.

"These causes which have given birth to our pact determine and limit its purpose and scope.

"The North Atlantic Pact is the logical supplement to the Brussels Pact.

"Like the latter, its purpose is both to prevent war from breaking out, by establishing a balance between the forces confronting each other, and to win any war of aggression that may be directed against one or all of the signatory states.

"The defensive alliance that we are concluding today cannot, of course, establish true peace, which is more than the absence of war, but like other similar alliances in the past it may give the world a salutary period of lasting truce. I am sure that that is the fervent desire of the signatories to this pact, all of whom believe that peaceful coexistence of the two regimes is possible and all of whom wish it.

"With the aid given to Europe by the Marshall Plan, the Atlantic Pact opens a new era of the closest solidarity between the democratic countries of Europe and the New World.

"Nothing proves better this ineluctable solidarity of the destinies of our countries than the fact that the United States, breaking with a tradition two centuries old, is concluding a military alliance in peacetime. That is an event of extraordinary historical significance for the United States and of the utmost importance for Europe."
"The peoples of Europe note with profound gratitude what the presence at their sides of this mighty and generous country signifies.

"They approve and acclaim the pact and accept the real risks and the heavy obligations that it imposes upon them. They accept it with active faith in the necessity for and the efficacy of the union that has been achieved.

"It is in this same spirit that, with the prior assent of nine tenths of the Members of the Luxembourg Parliament, I set the signature of my small country beside those of so many friendly nations at the bottom of this instrument of peace, the Atlantic Pact."

.... "Our defensive pact, by averting war, will, by its very existence, by its conception, and by its power, allow our peoples to progress in security."

("The Scotsman", May 19, 1950. Mr. J. Bech, Addresses at the end of the London session of the twelve Foreign Ministers of the Atlantic Council.)