

shared. When the sacrifices that are involved in a common effort are shared as fairly as is possible in this imperfect world, the community gains strength which enables it to go forward and solve new problems.

But defence, as such, is not the only burden. The European delegates, coming from countries still not fully recovered from the losses and destruction of the last war, have been reminding us that a corollary problem is, how to share the burden of existence. The necessity for increased defence production has already caused sharp economic difficulties in all the North Atlantic countries - in some more than in others; and these difficulties would certainly be aggravated if it were to be found that the tempo of rearmament had to be accelerated still further. The weapons needed by a modern army are today so elaborate, so costly, that few, if any, countries nowadays can rearm without co-operation from other friendly states. Those of us who were soldiers will remember how difficult it is to get into full kit by oneself. Someone has to help you get the pack over your shoulders and adjust it on your back. That is what has to happen now if the North Atlantic countries are as quickly as possible to be ready to defend themselves. So, this week in Ottawa, we discussed, as our main topic, this problem of co-operation in the fields of defence production and defence finance and we made arrangements for these discussions to be carried further before the next meeting later this fall in Rome. At that meeting some fundamental decisions will have to be taken on how to match our economic resources with our defence needs.

The degree of success that we attain in defence co-operation may largely determine the progress we can make in promoting the growth, generally, of the North Atlantic community. But the time has come to look even further into the future to a period when the problems of defence will not loom so large as they do today and when defence burdens, we may hope, will be lighter. Accordingly, a committee of Ministers - of which Canada is to supply the Chairman - was set up at this Council meeting to examine the possibilities of closer economic, financial and social co-operation on a permanent basis. This committee will also investigate what should be done to produce the maximum amount of coordination between the foreign policies of the various North Atlantic countries and to facilitate the flow of information and of ideas among them.

Although this developing Atlantic community, of necessity, must have a certain geographical basis, it is conceived in no exclusive or selfish spirit. It recognizes no arbitrary bounds, for it is the defensive core of the whole free world. Many other peoples share its aspirations; and it would be folly to weaken in any way the ties - commercial, sentimental, political - that its members have with other free countries.

The gates of the North Atlantic community should, I think, be kept open even towards those who would now destroy it. I don't want to be misunderstood in saying this. I know that the menace of Soviet military power is so great that we cannot slacken in the work of building collective defences. That feeling underlay all our talk