

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

MINISTERIAL MEETING, 1961

THE ANNUAL meeting of the foreign, defence and finance ministers of the 15 member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was held in Paris from December 13 to 15, 1961. Canada was represented by: the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green; the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Douglas S. Harkness; the Minister of Finance, Mr. Donald M. Fleming; Canada's Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council, Mr. Jules Leger; the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff, Air Chief Marshal F. R. Miller; and officials from the Departments of External Affairs, Finance, National Defence and Defence Production.

The general character and scope of the discussions are reflected in the communique issued at the conclusion of the meeting, the text of which follows:

Final Communique

The North Atlantic Council met in Ministerial Session in Paris from December 13 to 15, 1961. A thorough examination was made of the problems confronting the Alliance. The world-wide Communist threat to freedom, the problem of relations between the North Atlantic Alliance and the Soviet bloc, in particular Berlin, were its central concern.

2. The aim of the peoples of the Atlantic Community is a stable order in which no man and no nation need fear for their existence, their liberty or their future. World peace cannot indefinitely rest on a precarious balance of mutual terror.

3. The Alliance seeks peace and disarmament. But this desire has consistently been frustrated by the Soviet bloc. The Western Powers have presented a series of plans for general and complete disarmament. The Soviet Government has, however, so far refused to accept an effective and universally applicable system of international control, without which no nation could have confidence in a disarmament agreement. It envisages only verification of the arms destroyed, while rejecting control of the arms that remain. It is still the earnest hope of the Alliance that despite previous disappointments disarmament negotiations when resumed will yield useful results.

4. On the question of the abolition of nuclear tests, the Soviet Union has argued, evaded and obstructed for over three years, and through more than 300 meetings. The Soviet Union, while professing to negotiate in good faith, must for many months past have been secretly preparing the longest series of nuclear tests yet carried out, culminating in the largest nuclear explosion yet known.