



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 53/31      Text of Commencement Address at  
Dartmouth College delivered by the  
Secretary of State for External  
Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, at  
Hanover, N.H., Sunday, June 14, 1953

... Today I want to speak to you for a few minutes about one sector of this world community, the Atlantic sector, and about the attempt that is being made to build it into a closely knit, co-operating group for preserving the peace and advancing human welfare. Whether the attempt will succeed, I do not know. I do know that it is heartening and supremely important that it is being made.

Out of the chaos and destruction of the Second World War from which we were able to emerge only by linking our arms, our resources and our national destinies in a great allied coalition, we won for ourselves a second chance to create a new structure of peace.

We sought first a blueprint for this structure in the United Nations Charter; the most far-reaching instrument for international co-operation ever conceived.

However, in the years after 1946, our hopes for achieving co-operation and security through a universal organization were blasted - at least temporarily - by the reality of a divided world; of which a divided Germany and a divided Korea were the tragic symbols. The legend of the traditional jewel which your President is wearing today reads, as you know, "unanimity is the strength of society". The United Nations (perhaps not unexpectedly) was not able to gain this strength. As a result, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization linking North America with Western Europe was formed. Today, this Atlantic Organization stands as the most important international agency for the defence of the free world and the preservation of international peace. It is an instrument, moreover, which does not operate by vote or veto (though every one of its members, and this is sometimes forgotten, has a veto.) It operates through the examination and reconciliation of differing viewpoints; through decisions based on the general will and accepted as such.

In these discussions, and in the resulting decisions, special weight, of course, attaches to the opinion of those governments who carry the greatest share of the burden and the greatest responsibilities. But these, in their turn, do not ride roughshod over the opinions of the other and smaller members. In short, NATO is a partnership of members with a will to work