

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Well, there are some positions that the government has taken but before it can reveal what these positions are it would want to advise its partners. There will be other situations where there will be no position taken until such time as there has been consultation and agreement. For instance, what happens to SHAPE? That is a matter for the 14 members. The position the government of Canada takes with regard to particular bases that it has occupied is a matter for Canada.

Article XIII of the North Atlantic Treaty permits signatories to opt out in 1969, the 20th anniversary of its conclusion. The year 1969, for this good reason, has been regarded as the year for stocktaking. It was with this in mind that in December, 1964, I proposed on behalf of the Canadian government, at the NATO ministerial meeting, that the North Atlantic Council should undertake a review of the future of the alliance. Although this proposal was approved by the 14 other members of the NATO alliance, nevertheless, the idea was not pursued because the President of France had begun to articulate his nation's dissatisfaction with the NATO organization and no one wanted to precipitate a premature confrontation.

It is now less than a month since the French government first formally informed their NATO allies of their decision to withdraw from the integrated defence arrangements. I have given the House the text of the two notes setting out the French position. I have copies of these notes available, and they easily can be distributed to members of the committee, together with the text of the Canadian reply to the first French note. We have not replied yet to the second note.

Mr. McINTOSH: Mr. Martin, will they be supplied without asking for them?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes. If it is your wish, it may be convenient that the notes be made an appendix to today's proceedings, so they will be fully available for examination by members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I also have arranged to distribute a book entitled "NATO: Facts about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization", with which some of you undoubtedly are familiar. This book is available in English and French. I think you will find it a very useful source of information. It also includes a collection of basic documents including the North Atlantic Treaty and the highly complex set of agreements known as the London and Paris agreements of 1954, which govern Germany's participation in NATO.

My view and that of the government of Canada is that NATO has served a useful purpose. I take it from the reaction the other day to the Canadian position on the French announcement that this view generally speaking reflects the opinion of the political parties in Parliament. We have only to cast our minds back to the immediate post-war period; Europe was then unsteadily extricating itself from the morass left by the second world war and Stalin was pressing in every way to extend his influence through western Europe to the Atlantic. The picture has now changed, as President de Gaulle has said. It is not unreasonable to ask: "Is the alliance still necessary? Is General de Gaulle right in advocating the end of the integrated military organization of the alliance? Is