

and financial aspects of these requirements in order to ensure that the airfields and other "infrastructure" projects are constructed as economically as possible and are within the financial means of the countries which are to pay for them.

The Infrastructure Committee of the Council, assisted by technical experts of the international staff, is responsible for screening the military recommendations from this point of view. Their conclusions are submitted to the Council where member governments, either through their permanent representatives or through their ministers, negotiate the proportions in which the cost of the agreed programme should be shared. An outstanding accomplishment of the Council at the ministerial session in 1953 was agreement on a three-year financial arrangement for "infrastructure" which enabled the Supreme Commanders to make their construction plans up to 1957. The actual expenditure of funds on these projects is subject to a system of close financial supervision for which the Infrastructure Payments and Progress Committee is responsible. This Committee arranges that member countries contribute to the cost of construction in proportion to the agreed formula and sees that these contributions are spent as they should be.

Non-Military Activity of NATO

The activity of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is not limited to purely military fields; NATO also forms a community of nations with a growing interest in non-military co-operation—that is political, economic and cultural co-operation.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Three approved at the ministerial session in December 1956, steps have been taken to ensure that greater attention be given to political consultations for the avoidance of serious differences among members and their rapid settlement should they arise. The principle of political consultation is not a new one for NATO, but the countries of the Atlantic Community had not previously asserted its necessity with as much force. According to the recommendations of the Committee of Three, governments of member states shall inform the Council of any event that might have serious consequences for NATO in order that a political consultation may take place before a decision is reached. This procedure represents considerable progress in the political field.

In 1957 a committee was set up to study problems that might affect the economic health of the Alliance. The activity of NATO in this field must take into account the work of the numerous international organizations in which the member states play a prominent part, and increased co-operation within these organizations and consultations within NATO itself will further the economic interests of the Atlantic Community.

At the Ministerial session held in December 1957, the principle of interdependence and the importance of political consultation and economic co-operation were further emphasized. It was also decided to establish a new Committee, the Science Committee, which could seek to stimulate co-operation in that field and to increase the effectiveness of national effort through the pooling of scientific facilities and information and the sharing of tasks.

In the fields of culture and information, NATO continues to make a great effort to promote exchanges and a deeper mutual knowledge among the people of the member states. Among other things, a programme of scholarships and fellowships has been set up and subsidies were granted for international