

NATO Meeting in Oslo

foreign ministers re-emphasized that such a solution can only be found on the basis of self determination. They reiterated the determination of all to maintain the freedom of West Berlin and its people. As to the often repeated threat by the Soviet union to sign a separate peace treaty, they reaffirmed the statement in the 1958 declaration that the denunciation by the Soviet union of the inter-allied agreements on Berlin can in no way deprive the other parties of their rights or relieve the Soviet union of its obligations.

While Germany and Berlin may be the most immediate potential cause of friction between the Soviet and the west in Europe, the NATO council continued to be concerned about the need for progress toward disarmament. The council expressed the hope that the proposed discussions between the United States of America and the U.S.S.R. would permit the resumption of negotiations at the end of July, and reaffirmed the western objectives of disarmament by stages under effective international control. A major first step toward disarmament would be the conclusion of an agreement on the suspension of nuclear tests. The foreign ministers expressed the hope that the U.S.S.R. would revise its attitude and will agree to consider the draft treaty tabled by the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The council also gave high priority to the question of assisting less developed areas of the world and of NATO in raising their standards of living.

The ministers stressed once more the need for close consultation between NATO members to develop an increased unity of purpose within the alliance. This question of consultation has been the subject of consideration throughout the years, and more and more it becomes mandatory that consultation shall be even closer than it has been heretofore.

The ministers also instructed the permanent council to keep under constant review NATO's military posture and to report to the ministerial meeting in December.

Sir, with the leave of the house I table the communique.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to receive this preliminary report from the Prime Minister on the NATO meeting in Oslo. We will no doubt be hearing in greater detail from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, when he returns, as to the results of the meeting. There is no doubt that this meeting took place at a very important moment in NATO's history, and that there were many problems and difficulties which had to be faced.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

We all hope that the meeting itself, under the chairmanship of the distinguished new secretary general, Mr. Stikker, will help to ensure progress in the solution of these problems and difficulties. It is clear from the communique that many of these problems are concerned with issues strictly outside the NATO geographical area, but from which NATO members cannot isolate themselves. It is important that NATO should make progress, and it is satisfying to learn that this council meeting has made some contribution to that progress. At this time, of all times, NATO should be strong and united, not only for defence but in the building up of the North Atlantic community.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I am sure we all listened with interest to the statement of the Prime Minister with respect to the communique issued at the conclusion of the NATO meeting. We in this group were very glad to hear of the change of direction, and that emphasis is not only being placed on the military aspect but on the psychological, cultural and economic aspects, as well as the desire of NATO to work to develop self determination. When we say that we must not forget that there is one country which is a member of NATO, Portugal, which has a colony known as Angola where there is slave labour and suppression of freedom.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the matters on which the hon. member is commenting do not arise from the statement of the Prime Minister. That statement was made for the information of the house, and does not give hon. members an opportunity to roam about the field of international affairs.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to wander, but was making those remarks as a prelude to my conclusion. We in this group are very pleased to know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is concerned with these matters.

HIGHWAYS**NEW BRUNSWICK—AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that under the roads to resources program, agreement has been reached with the province of New Brunswick for the immediate construction of an important road to develop the resources of that province. Construction of some 75 miles of road in the north central part of New Brunswick west of Bathurst, to provide access to a major mineralized zone, is involved in the project.