

It seems to me the reason is quite obvious, and must commend itself to members of the House. Quite apart from the question of security--and I think it would be a breach of security if we placed those figures on record in the form in which he would like to have them--quite apart from that, it would not be appropriate in this House for a representative of the Canadian Government to give in detail the military programmes of other governments represented in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization--and certainly not appropriate without their consent.

But I will say this--and I tried to say it briefly the other day--that when we went to Lisbon we were confronted with new figures for military programmes. Those figures, those programmes, resulted from a very exhaustive examination of previous military programmes by the Temporary Council Committee which had been set up in Ottawa, the executive committee of which was known as the "Three Wise Men." The very procedure of that committee, and its executive committee, shows how closely we co-operate in NATO. Such an inquisition, and I do not think it is an exaggeration to call it that, of the military budgets of one state by three representatives of other states, under which the ministers of a state were asked to explain their defence budgets, was a procedure which would have been quite impossible before the war.

Following that procedure the Temporary Council Committee approved its final report and submitted that report to us in Lisbon. The resolution adopting that report was put before us and agreed to by us there. That resolution had in it--it is a secret document still--much besides the military goals and the military programmes. I can assure you that in it economic matters were not overlooked, nor were they overlooked in the report. As a matter of fact the press statement, to which so much attention has been devoted, itself spent most of its time dealing with economic apart from military matters.....

I was chairman of the Council, and naturally as chairman I took full responsibility for any document or statement issued officially in the name of the Council. I may say that that statement was cleared with the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and France by special individual clearances. One paragraph of the resolution adopting the TCC report stated in very clear terms that the realization of adequate defensive strength and its continued support by the governments and peoples of the North Atlantic Treaty countries required sound economic and social foundations which could be developed only by a satisfactory rate of general economic expansion.

As I have said already in this House, these military goals, which we adopted at Lisbon were goals adjusted downward from those to which we had been previously working in so far as 1952 was concerned, and indeed in so far as the three-year programme was concerned. That adjustment downward was the result of this civilian examination and designed to take into account the economic, financial and social situations of the member states, especially the European member states.

May I put the position in the terms of a simple illustration. You are building a house and you are presented, as is often the case, with architect's plans which