

during the first two days of the meeting, should provide for briefings on NATO at the Palais de Chaillot and at SHAPE, while the three last days would be left open for the Members of Parliament to have discussions together.

The briefings at the Palais de Chaillot were extensive. The Secretary-General of the Organization spoke to the group on the organizational aspects of the Alliance, while the Standing Group Liaison Officer dealt with the military organization of NATO. The Conference also heard the Head of the Production and Logistics Department of NATO on problems relating to the Annual Review and Defence Production. A briefing was also given on the theme of civil defence, the role of parliaments and the role of NATO by Sir John Hodsoll, the Senior Civil Defence Adviser to NATO. In his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Information and Cultural Relations, the Permanent Delegate of Canada on the NATO Council, Ambassador L. Dana Wilgress addressed the group on non-military co-operation within NATO. The briefings at SHAPE Headquarters included discussions on SHAPE Organization by Gen. Brisac, on NATO air defence plans by Air Marshal Dawson, and finally an address on the wider implications of the NATO defence programme and strategy by General Gruenther.

IV

The Parliamentarians held four sessions devoted to the exchange of views on matters of common interest, the sessions taking place on the morning and afternoon of July 20, on the afternoon of July 21 and the morning of July 22. The morning session of July 20 was devoted to general statements, many of them enlarging on points which had emerged in the briefings on the previous two days. It is perhaps worth referring here to a statement made by the leader of the United States Delegation, who pointed out that the limited representation of the Congress of the United States in no way reflected a lack of interest in the meeting, but rather was an unfortunate consequence of the particularly heavy legislative schedule with which the Congress was confronted at the time of the meeting. Almost all of the general statements expressed approval of the purposes underlying the meeting, and supported the view that further meetings of NATO parliamentarians to exchange views on questions of common concern would be of great value both to the parliaments of Member countries and to the Organization itself.

This theme was developed more specifically at the afternoon session on July 20, when resolutions were introduced by the Canadian, French and United Kingdom Delegations, designed to ensure that a further meeting of the same general type should take place, perhaps in about a year's time. A Resolutions Committee was set up to seek to prepare an agreed text combining the significant points in the three national drafts mentioned. The report of this Committee was considered at the session on Thursday, July 21, at which time certain proposed amendments were put forward. The Committee met again to consider these amendments, and presented a final report at the session on July 22. This final report was unanimously adopted, and the text of the resolution was approved. At the same time a resolution calling in general terms for closer unity within the Atlantic community was presented by the French Delegation and approved by the meeting.

At various stages there were suggestions from one quarter or another for somewhat more specific resolutions on particular subjects of NATO interest,