

questions indeed faced the Council at that meeting. Some of these questions had been postponed from the meeting which was held in Ottawa, and some of them were new questions. The main problems which faced us in Rome were as follows: first, we examined, though in no official sense, because that work was not completed, the work of the Temporary Council Committee appointed by the Council at its Ottawa meeting. This committee had the responsibility of attempting to match the requirements for defence and the resources of the separate members of the Council which could be devoted to that defence, having regard to their political and economic capabilities.

This work of the Temporary Council Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Harriman, known as the "Burden Sharing Exercise", was not completed; indeed it had not been nearly completed when we met at Rome, and we were not able to deal with it at that time. Since our meeting in Rome, however, the executive committee of this Committee of Twelve, also popularly known as the "Three Wise Men", have made a report on the matter to the full Committee.

The Committee of Twelve met in Paris the other day to consider that report, and will meet again in Paris on January 15 to give further and final consideration to it. The subject will then be referred to the next meeting of the North Atlantic Council, which will be held sometime in February, in Lisbon, Portugal. I do not think it would be desirable for me to say anything more at this time about that report, because it has not yet been finally submitted to governments, and no final decision has been taken on it yet by these governments.

Another very important question which faced us in Rome, and will face us again in Lisbon, is the association of Germany with Western European and Atlantic defence. It is a matter of vital concern to the defence of peace in Western Europe; but one that bristles with difficulties, which, I suppose, are better appreciated on the continent of Europe than they are on the continent of North America. This association is now being discussed by the European countries concerned, and it is hoped that it can be brought about by the creation of a European defence force, which would itself be part of General Eisenhower's integrated force for the defence of Western Europe under the Atlantic Council. Progress is being made in the creation of this European defence force, and we hope that the Council at its next meeting will be able to take important and far-reaching decisions regarding it.

Another question which is related to the one I have just mentioned, and which concerns our North Atlantic Council, is the progress being made in the replacement of the German occupation statute by a peace contract with the Government of the Republic of Germany. Progress has also been made in this matter, but I think it is obvious that a decision must be reached in regard to it before we can reach a final decision in regard to the association of Germany with Western European defence. These two subjects are interrelated; indeed, they hang together. These are complicated problems, and we should not I think get too impatient if final decisions are not reached in regard to them at once.

Another question which faced us at Rome, Mr. Speaker, was that of command in the North Atlantic, and, indeed, command in the Mediterranean. We also discussed at Rome the question of the re-organization of the North Atlantic Organization. It is becoming in a sense a rather unwieldy international agency. It has grown quickly. It has grown, as things sometimes do which grow quickly, without that kind of arrangement and planning which we would have desired, and which we would have achieved if we had had more time. So we are giving consideration in the North Atlantic Organization now to the streamlining, the making more effective of the whole Organization. Also we received at our North Atlantic Council meeting a report from the Committee of Five on Non-military Co-operation. That was in the nature of an interim report, and not meant to be anything else. Because it is an interim report I do not think I need say much more about it at this time, Mr. Speaker. We are continuing our work on this Committee of Five, and we will have something more to say about it at the next meeting in Portugal.

Then finally at Rome—and this was not a problem; it was a privilege—we welcomed to our deliberations, not as full members, because the protocol that we are considering today has not been accepted, but as observers for the first time, the representative of Greece and Turkey.