

dom to join the European Economic Community (Common Market). Accordingly, the Conference recommended that the OECD be asked to give special attention to the question of price stabilization of primary products, which is so essential to the prosperity of newly-developing countries. It also called on the individual NATO countries to evaluate the effects of excise taxes and duties and tariffs on the consumption of primary tropical commodities like coffee, cocoa and tobacco in order to increase the consumption of them. The Conference also urged member countries to adopt a policy through voluntary action of accepting a "fair share of imports" of manufactures from newly-developing countries and from Japan and Hong Kong.

In his opening address, the Secretary-General had referred to proposals being circulated in the United States for a "trade partnership" with the Common Market. He said it seemed clear that there was a growing recognition in the world that there were bound to be regional economic groupings and that these groupings tended to increase world trade and to strengthen their member countries. The majority of the Conference also considered that adherence of the United Kingdom to the Common Market would strengthen the cohesion and political stability of Western Europe, but also stressed that the unity of the Atlantic Community, no less than the growth of international trade, should be promoted by the pursuit of policies for expanding trade between nations, within and outside regional groupings. Special emphasis was placed on the need for "Western economic unity within the Atlantic Community".

An important Canadian initiative took place in the economic debate. Mr. Louis-Joseph Pigeon recalled the offer of Prime Minister Diefenbaker in 1959 to help NATO countries establish stock piles of wheat flour. He noted with regret that only Norway and Britain had taken advantage of the offer to establish wartime reserves. He also said that the Canadian Government had long been concerned to find ways of meeting the extraordinary needs of many under-developed countries for many foodstuffs, and urged the members of the Conference to support the establishment of a World Food Bank under the Food and Agriculture Organization. The chairman of the Economic Committee, Senator Javits, undertook to have this question examined by the Committee.

Status of the Conference

On the basis of their experience, particularly in the European Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe, a number of European delegates have felt that the Conference should have consultative rather than purely unofficial status in NATO. This year a proposal was made by a French Deputy that an "Assembly of the Atlantic Alliance" be established out of the NATO Parliamentarians' Conference to deal with the state of Western defence and security in light of annual reports communicated to the Assembly by the Ministerial Council of the NATO and Western European Union. The Assembly would also deal with the cohesion of the Western world and meet twice a year, once on each side of