

Financial and Economic Board, and the plans which I understand are now under consideration for strengthening the International Staff, will greatly facilitate your own work in the months to come.

NATO Reorganization

The importance of the Deputies has, of course, been increased by the re-organization of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization top structure announced last month. The Canadian Government is pleased that its proposals to this effect - after a careful and collective study of the problems involved - have met with the approval of the Deputies and their Governments. The new organization is simpler than the old. The lines of responsibility are clearer. Although a good organizational system is not an end in itself, it will without doubt help the governments here represented to do the job which the Treaty requires, and on which the people in all our countries are counting so heavily.

Collective Defence - the Integrated Force

It is little more than two years since the North Atlantic Treaty was signed and less than two years since it came into force. Much has been accomplished in this time. During this short period, NATO has pursued the unique task of building a system of collective defence in peacetime. Perhaps the grave practical problems involved in establishing the Integrated Force in Europe tend to make us forget the historical and dramatic importance of this decision. I think one would have to go far back into history for a peacetime precedent for the integration into one international force of units of so many nations.

It would be tragic indeed if we were not able to carry this development forward, effectively and speedily. It would also be dangerous to our very existence as free political societies, because only by collective military strength can we hold at bay the forces of potential aggression, and thereby give ourselves time and opportunity to establish peace on a stronger foundation than force.

We have been given, already, two years for this purpose. That is a short enough period - against the background of history - to do what we have done. Against the background of the danger which faces us, however, it is a longer time, and we should be impatient that we have not been able to do more.

In that impatience lies one of our hopes for further progress. In it also lies dangers which may divide and weaken our association; dangers of invidious comparisons and consequent irritations. We must have confidence in each other's desire and determination to make this coalition effective; broadly and fairly based. Confidence, however, can only be established by results. If my own country, for instance, does not carry its fair share of the total burden, the association will be weakened, and in a more than material sense. That applies to all of us. It means that we should be completely frank in analysing difficulties and in exchanging views. It means also that we should understand each other's problems, and appreciate any special difficulties which may arise. The Deputies can be of very great importance here. The feeling of friendly solidarity among you which has developed makes it possible, even easy, for you to discuss questions without reservations, and without fear of recrimination. You can also explain to your own governments the positions and the attitudes of other members, when difficulties arise, and thereby help to resolve them.

Broader Vision of the North Atlantic Community

Although the building of collective defence is at present the main activity of NATO, the Canadian Government and people do not