

NATO Ministerial Meeting

It goes on to say:

The recommendations offer a sensible way to entrust important segments of a mounting work load to keen scrutiny in committee without weakening the basic authority of the Commons as a whole.

There is much more I could read into the record, but I promised to be brief. I make an appeal to members of the house to study this report in detail over the recess period, and to give consideration to giving it their support, at least on a trial basis, so that we can restore, if one wants to put it that way, some order to the tremendous load of business being transacted by the house at present.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Knowles, moves that the said debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—REPORT ON MINISTERIAL MEETING

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I should like to make a brief statement to the house on the NATO ministerial meeting which the Minister of National Defence and I have just attended in Paris. I should like to table copies in English and in French of the communiqué which was issued at the close of the meeting. As is usual, perhaps this could be made an appendix to today's record.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): This was a useful and encouraging meeting. In fact I think it was the most useful of the four which I have attended, for we discussed matters which are at the heart of the alliance in a spirit of candor and tolerance. As so often happens, the meeting was preceded by reports of crisis, but an alliance which can discuss its difficulties in the spirit I have described is strong and healthy.

That differences exist is of course well known, and this is particularly the case with regard to the nuclear arrangements of the alliance. I went to the meeting with the strong belief that the various proposals that had been made for nuclear arrangements should continue to be discussed in the NATO forum and that no decisions on these important questions should be taken without full consultation in NATO. During the meeting I expressed this belief, which was shared by others, and paragraph 8 of the communiqué reflects this view.

[Mr. Olson.]

I should like to make quite clear that in urging NATO discussion of these issues, we are not aligning ourselves for or against any other member of the alliance. What we are doing is seeking a way to reinforce the unity of the alliance. It is for this reason that the Canadian government has consistently maintained that any new arrangements must be related to the essential purposes of NATO.

We also discussed Cyprus in a restricted meeting of ministers. We were given a report from the secretary general which covered the conscientious efforts which he and his predecessor, Mr. Stikker, had made under the watching brief entrusted to them to try to bring Greece and Turkey together. Without the intervention of the NATO secretary general the dangers arising from the tension between Greece and Turkey and the threat to the stability of the southeastern flank of NATO might well have increased.

After hearing statements from the foreign ministers of Greece and Turkey, I appealed to the sense of responsibility of the two governments and urged them to do all they could to exert a moderating influence on the two communities in Cyprus. I reiterated the need for renewed efforts to reach agreement on a negotiated settlement. I also urged that restraint on the part of the governments of Greece and Turkey could be an even more influential factor than the activities of the NATO secretary general. It was of course understood that the watching brief of the NATO secretary general which the council reviewed should continue to be in support of the mediatory and peace keeping role of the United Nations. That role is of primary interest to Canada as a contributor to the United Nations peace keeping force in Cyprus.

I may say that the government expects to receive a request from the secretary general of the United Nations today to agree to a renewal of Canadian participation in the United Nations force for a further period of three months, and that the Canadian permanent representative to the United Nations will be authorized to convey the government's agreement to this request.

It has been the Canadian view for some time past that if NATO is to continue as a dynamic alliance, its members must consider carefully the kind of alliance most suited to their national needs and to conditions in the future. The importance of examining the alliance's future was recognized at The Hague meeting, where ministers had their first exchange of views on this subject. At this recent meeting I advanced the view that there should