

So we are getting stronger. In a few months General Eisenhower's Atlantic force will form a far from weak shield against aggression. Canada, as you know, has been asked to provide a brigade group and eleven air squadrons for that force and measures have been taken to ensure that that commitment is honoured.

Not only are strong forces being built up for the defence of the North Atlantic area, but co-ordinated military plans have been agreed on. Those plans will be realized more effectively and more speedily because of the meeting we have just concluded. Although Western Europe, then, remains the great fortress of freedom, there are other areas which are of great strategic importance, and which must be joined to that area, for the purposes of defence, if we are to succeed in convincing the Soviet Union that the free world cannot be attacked with impunity. For that reason a decision was taken at this meeting of the North Atlantic Council - an important decision - to recommend to our governments and parliaments that Greece and Turkey - the south flank of the Atlantic community - should be admitted as full members of the Organization. Our House of Commons will soon be asked to approve that decision.

The purpose of this action, and of every other decision we have taken - we can never stress this too much - is to prevent war. Not one of the countries represented on the North Atlantic Council has succumbed to the fatalistic fallacy that war is inevitable or to the view that any activity which does not lead to an immediate increase in military strength is irrelevant and unnecessary in the present state of the world. We must keep it that way.

Convincing proof of the peaceful intention of our alliance is found in the fact that during these past few days in Ottawa we have devoted many hours to a serious and heartening discussion of the non-military aspects of the Treaty. This marks, I think, an historic turning point in its development. There is much still to be done in building up our joint military forces before we can feel any sense of security against the menace of Soviet Communist aggression. But we can, I think, safely permit ourselves now to give some thought also to the more distant future.

To build the North Atlantic community, as we are now pledged to do, will not be a short or easy task. It will be many, many decades before we finish that job - and it cannot be done by airy phrases. But we begin with great advantages. The development we are projecting will be no artificial process. It will be the natural growth of something that exists at present. Already, there is a strong and growing sense of community between the North Atlantic nations. What we are now proposing is to see how this can be progressively and practicably developed in a way which will promote the welfare of our peoples.

There is, of course, a relationship between the short-term and long-term objectives of NATO, apart from the fact that if we do not achieve the former there may not be any of the latter. The most immediately pressing problem is the actual collection of adequate defensive strength. But allied to that is how this burden of defence is to be