

One of the most hopeful and most exciting developments of the postwar period has been the coming together of European nations; a process not yet completed. As a result of this, a united Europe should play, and can play if it desires to do so, an equal part with North America in the direction and development of the Atlantic Alliance.

It would, however, be a sad day for peace and security if a united Europe or a United States were to play a separate role. Therefore we must examine very closely into the relationships that bind us together across the Atlantic. Changes that have been wrought since our last meeting in Ottawa point to the need for some redefinition of Atlantic relations. The public discussion that is taking place on this subject is a reflection of the healthy nature of the free societies which support our Alliance.

On the military defence side, it would certainly seem that the moment for some recasting of NATO policy, including nuclear policy, has arrived. In this recasting, nuclear-arms policy and conventional-arms policy should be carefully studied together as inseparable elements in any sound strategic design. It is also true that, despite the impressive advances of the past few years, the twin problem of political decision-making and of political consultation, so essential in an era of apocalyptic weapons, has not yet been satisfactorily resolved. The proposals of the U.S.A. now before the Council offer a framework in which these problems can be tackled.

Equally it would repay us to see what changes are needed to improve our co-operation in the economic field. In the twentieth century, perhaps more than ever before, harmonization of economic policies is indispensable for political and defence collaboration.

We are not going to settle all of these issues in this short meeting. Nevertheless, we will make satisfactory progress and I hope that in that progress we will be guided by a precept enunciated by a well-known American writer, Mr. Henry Kissinger:

"The test of leadership is not tomorrow's editorial,
but what history will say of us five years from now."

I believe that five years from now history will say that this Council meeting marked one more good step in the evolution of the Atlantic coalition, for the security of its members and for peace in the world....