

give whatever time may be necessary to ensure that the responsibilities of the council are carried out effectively.

In the intervals between meetings of ministers, the deputies, duly authorized by their respective governments, will be responsible, on behalf of and in the name of the council, for carrying out its policies and for formulating issues requiring decisions by the member governments.

This committee will have its headquarters in London, and it will not be surprising if the United States member of the committee is chosen as its chairman.

In conclusion I should like to make a few general observations arising from the meeting in London, and from private discussions which I had there from time to time. I was profoundly impressed by the new spirit of hope in Europe and the United Kingdom. There is certainly no reason of any kind for us to be unrealistically optimistic about what is happening or what may happen, and this is certainly no time for us to lower our guard in any respect. Nevertheless, there is a new feeling of confidence in western Europe itself. Both the United Kingdom and western European countries have made great strides in economic recovery, particularly during the last eighteen months. In this recovery aid from North America has been very important, but the countries themselves, by their own efforts, are primarily responsible for the advances they have made. The recovery of morale in western Europe is perhaps of even greater importance. I think it is not an exaggeration to say that that is due in large part to our North Atlantic Treaty, and the action which has been taken under it. By this treaty western Europe has been given assurance that it will not be left alone to face the dark threat from the east. In this connection the military aid being provided by the United States under the mutual defence assistance programme is of great importance in strengthening immediately the defences of western Europe.

But here again the European countries of the North Atlantic Treaty are not leaning on their oars. They are making great progress, and expending every possible effort to strengthen their own position. The recent French proposal for consolidating with western European coal and steel production under a single control is indicative of the imaginative approach to their problems that western European nations are making. That is a very important development, as I see it, the importance of which may be as political as economic. It may mean a long step forward in ending the ancient feud between Gaul and Teuton, which has caused so many dark things to be written on the pages of European history. I believe that this is an example of the new approach by Europeans to their problems, and we can only hope it will be successful, both politically and economically.

It has become increasingly apparent that the nations of western Europe and North America must stick together if they are to assure their economic or military security. The recent North Atlantic Council meetings in London have, I think, done something to further cement this essential association.

May I conclude, though it may sound a little egotistical for me to do so, by reading, from my own statement at the final session of the council. It expressed my own views better than I could possibly express them in any other language at this time. I said then: