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New Declaration on Atlantic Relations approved in Ottawa

Ministers of the 15-nation North Atlantic alliance, who met in Ottawa on June 18 and 19 approved a new Declaration on Atlantic Relations. The "Ottawa declaration", as it has been referred to, was signed in Brussels on June 26, when President Nixon met NATO heads of state on his way to Moscow.

NATO ministers were greeted on June 18 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa by a military guard of honour before entering the Senate Chamber, where Prime Minister Trudeau, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp, cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, conference officials and guests awaited them.

In his welcoming address, the Prime Minister expressed his pleasure that the NATO ministerial meeting was taking place in Ottawa in its twenty-fifth anniversary year. It is the third time it has met in Ottawa. Mr. Trudeau said that the alliance would remain strong only so long as it respected the freedom of the individual.

"Twenty-five years following its birth the Atlantic alliance has proved beyond question its value and its organic strength. The proof, as we well know, has not always been readily accepted. Democratic societies are not willing without demonstrated need to dedicate precious resources to defence. Had this association not remained true to the concerns of its peoples, it would have forfeited both its vitality and its will. That lesson must not be forgotten in the next 25 years. We will remain strong as an alliance only so long as we respect the freedom of the individual. We will increase the support of our peoples only if we reflect their concern for quality of life, for economic development, for negotiated settlement of disputes, for environmental protection..." the Prime Minister stated.

Text of Declaration

Following is the next of the Declaration on Atlantic Relations issued at Ottawa on June 19:

"The members of the North Atlantic alliance declare that the treaty signed 25 years ago to protect their freedom and independence has confirmed their common destiny. Under the shield of the treaty, the allies have maintained their security, permitting them to preserve the values which are the heritage of their civilization and enabling Western Europe to rebuild from its ruins and lay the foundations of its unity.

"The members of the alliance reaffirm their conviction that the North Atlantic Treaty provides the indispensable basis for their security, thus making possible the pursuit of *détente*. They welcome the progress that has been achieved on the road towards *détente* and harmony among nations, and the fact that a conference of 35 countries of Europe and North America is now seeking to lay down guidelines designed to increase security and co-operation in Europe. They believe that until circumstances permit the introduction of general, complete and controlled disarmament, which alone could provide genuine security for all, the ties uniting them must be maintained. The allies share a common desire to reduce the burden of arms expenditure on their peoples. But states that wish to preserve peace have never achieved this aim by neglecting their own security.

Defence policy

"The members of the alliance reaffirm that their common defence is one and indivisible. An attack on one or more of them in the area of application of the treaty shall be considered an attack against them all. The common aim is to prevent any attempt by a foreign power to threaten the independence or integrity of a member of the alliance. Such an attempt would not only put in jeopardy the security of all members of the alliance but also threaten the foundations of world peace.

"At the same time they realize that the circumstances affecting their

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