

# North Atlantic Treaty Organization

MINISTERIAL MEETING, BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 1969

*On December 3, 4 and 5, the foreign and defence ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization met in Brussels for the customary winter sessions of the North Atlantic Council and the Defence Planning Committee. The Minister of National Defence, the Honorable Léo Cadieux, represented Canada on the Defence Planning Committee, which deals with military questions of concern to the alliance. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honorable Mitchell Sharp, was the Canadian representative at the ministerial session of the North Atlantic Council, where the political discussion takes place.*

*At the conclusion of the meetings, a communiqué was issued with an attached declaration, the texts of which follow, as well as the texts of statements made by Mr. Sharp and Mr. Cadieux in the House of Commons on December 8, when they reported on the Brussels meetings.*

## Final Communiqué

1. The North Atlantic Council met in Ministerial Session at Brussels on 4th and 5th December, 1969. The meeting was attended by Foreign, Defence and Finance Ministers.

2. Since the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty twenty years ago, the members of the Alliance have dedicated their efforts to the preservation of their freedom and security and to the improvement of East-West relations in the aim of reaching an ultimate peaceful solution of outstanding problems in Europe. They will continue to do so.

3. By approving in December 1967 the Report on the Future Tasks of the Alliance, the Allied Governments resolved to maintain adequate military strength and political solidarity to deter aggression and other forms of pressure and to defend the territory of member countries if aggression should occur; and to examine suitable policies designed to achieve a just and stable order in Europe, to overcome the division of Germany and to foster European security.

4. On the basis of these two concepts of defence and the relaxation of tensions, the Ministers issued the Declaration attached to this Communiqué in which they set forth their views on the future development of relations between Eastern and Western countries.

5. Ministers welcomed the opening of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. They acknowledged the work in progress with regard to arms control on the sea bed, as well as the interest shown both by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and the United Nations in measures to deal with chemical and