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TOWARD A NEW KIND OF ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

As guest speaker at the Atlantic Union Award Dinner in Springfield, Illinois, on June 11, Prime Minister Pearson declared that he could not visualize "the Atlantic nations going forward together to a secure and hopeful future without France" and that it was imperative that they find a way out of current NATO difficulties "so that France can fully participate in the march to greater, not less, Atlantic unity". He said he was convinced, however, "that we cannot insist on retaining NATO in its present form as the only foundation for building a more genuinely international structure more appropriate for the future", and exhorted the United States "to give the effective lead for Atlantic unity" under the changed conditions.

The following are extracts from Mr. Pearson's address:

...As I look back on the years through which we have passed since the second great war of this century, I am struck by the fact that our destinies have depended so very much on the vision and leadership of a few men — on their understanding of what, at a particular moment, was the right way out of danger, and the right way to move ahead. These rare individuals had always before them an ideal of human brotherhood, of a world at peace and with freedom. They also had a firm and confident sense of direction in trying to achieve their ideal. Chris Herter and Adlai Stevenson are such men.

Clarence Streit is another who for many long years now has accepted the challenge of a great idea — the idea of a federal union of the peoples lying on both sides of the North Atlantic as a step to an even wider union of all men. That idea has not yet been realized. Indeed, in some of the Atlantic

countries, it seems at the moment to be of little interest. But it is acting upon the societies of our two countries and I believe is doing the same, although perhaps less noticeably, in Europe. It has life and dynamism. Its impact on politics in North America has increased and this is bound to convey a reflection on the other side of the Atlantic.

NATO — the Atlantic alliance — is an encouraging, if imperfect, reflection of this ideal. It has served us well for the past 16 years. NATO could hardly have achieved its political and its military expression, however, if the east of the Atlantic unity idea had not been at work before the Treaty of 1949 was signed. When Clarence Streit published *Union Now*, he was called a visionary, a dreamer. How could governments and peoples, long imbued with their own proud traditions of history, of nationalism, and of sovereignty — how could they give up some of their very substance, of their state freedom, to form a union with other nations — even for those national purposes which, the history of our century has shown, could no longer be achieved except by collective action? But they did.

LESSONS OF THE PAST

If the lessons of history are depressing, it is because they seem never to be learned — at least until it is too late. Yet, we can also take some comfort from this historical record, as we look at the scene around us and the road ahead.

If we tend to become too depressed over the troubles that face the world today, we should recall how things seemed in the Atlantic world in the 'Forties.

In 1948, it was our hope that Western Europe and