

today the Soviet military machine looms before us in an outline and with a motive power which leaves us no alternative but to be vigilant and strong ourselves. But if the force of immediate circumstances accelerated its birth, yet it remains true that to some extent NATO was the product of a natural evolution - an association of peoples who for the most part see eye to eye, who have the same desire and determination to preserve their traditional institutions and ways of life, and who desire to collaborate not only in the immediate military task at hand, but in much wider fields - economic and social, as well as political. I stress the words "desire to" collaborate in these non-military fields. We are still at an early stage in the development of these non-military forms of co-operation and much remains to be done if NATO is to be true to its own collective quality and capacity. As a prelude to what I shall have later to say about the Copenhagen Conference, I may say that I believe that the place of NATO in world history will depend on the success which its members enjoy in developing their political, economic and social partnership. For in equipping ourselves to contend with the various manifestations of Soviet power, and to achieve a mature and harmonious relationship with nations and peoples who desire to remain uncommitted to either the Western or the Soviet coalition, it will simply not be enough to place our trust in military instruments of policy alone.

The recent meeting in Copenhagen took place in the palace of Christiansborg, the picturesque parliament buildings of Denmark, where visiting representatives received from their hosts a welcome of genuine warmth and friendship. Tourists think of Copenhagen as the city of open sandwiches. I think of it as the city of open hearts and, indeed when I look back on the discussions that we held there, as the city of open minds.

I am convinced that this was a most successful meeting. I came away from it profoundly impressed by the sense of unity and co-operation which was in evidence. I well remember only last autumn the serious blow which NATO suffered as a consequence of the dispute between the United States and the United Kingdom on the one hand, and France on the other, with regard to the supply of arms to Tunisia. It says much for the underlying tolerance and understanding among the nations concerned that this issue has not interfered with the development of co-operation in a wider sphere. It is a mark of the confidence which has been developed amongst the NATO allies that the same three members of the Alliance are at this moment acting as trusted spokesmen of their partners in the conduct of negotiations with the U.S.S.R. on certain aspects of preparations for a summit meeting. I suggest that the achievement of such close co-ordination as is now being carried out in NATO is a historic and unique development among free and independent nations and is, in the words of the communique issued at the close of the Copenhagen meeting, one of the significant and promising events of our time.