

Mr. McIntosh: Mr. Martin, would you care to comment on the possible use of your role as President of the Council at this session as a sort of mediator or go-between, as, for instance, between the French and the American positions?

Mr. Martin: Well, I shall endeavour, as any country would try, to minimize the differences. And, if it is thought that that there is any role for us to play, we shall gladly assume this, as other countries would. But I am not going there with the idea that there is a particular role for me to play in this area. If it should arise, I should certainly do my best, because I believe that it is desirable for the Atlantic Community, for the Western world, to have as close an association with France as possible, and we take comfort in the view that the Government of France, within the context of an organization of sovereign powers, takes a similar view.

I only hope that the differences on the question of military organization will not defeat that purpose.

I also hope, in reaffirming our belief in NATO and its indispensability at this time for our security, that this will not stand in the way of our taking measures, and being determined to take measures, to try to improve relations between the East and West, and it is because we believe that, in the face of the present military might of the Soviet Union in particular, the best way to do this is by being equally strong. Canada and the 14 believe that there can be no let-up in the combined military organization that has been established during the past 14 years in NATO itself. But no one should conclude, because we believe NATO to be necessary, no one should conclude because we propose to strengthen it, that we are on that account less interested in trying to improve relations between the European powers on both sides, in the Warsaw Pact and in the NATO group. This remains an objective that we believe is essential, and we shall pursue it with as much vigour as we can.

I hope that out of this meeting will come an agreement on the part of all 15 as to the best courses to promote a further détente.

Mr. Vladimir Mikhailov: Mr. Martin, would you care to comment on this statement by Walter Lippmann in today's paper entitled "United States and Europe"?

Mr. Martin: I did not read Mr. Lippmann this morning; I read Arthur Blakeley instead.

Mr. Mikhailov: At any rate, in his story Mr. Lippmann says that the real undertone of the French decision was that the Europe of today would end the "cold war", while the United States, for a number of reasons, is not ready to do so. The second part of my question is that there were some statements made recently that the time had come for NATO and for the Warsaw Pact powers to reach a pact or agreement, whatever it is. What do you say to that?