

## Non-military Co-operation in NATO

The Council had also concluded that because of the relaxation of tension and the removal of some of the more urgent and immediate fears which had been felt a few years previously, the non-military side of NATO co-operation was now more important than ever and should be developed, strengthened, and deepened. With the lessening of fear and tension, the main incentive which had led to the creation of NATO was being modified and attempts should therefore be made to strengthen the other bonds which held the NATO countries together. This idea had been reflected in the communiqué at the end of the ministerial meeting.

Mr. Pearson reported that the Foreign Ministers had spent almost a day discussing the item "what can we do to extend non-military co-operation between the NATO countries". In particular, Mr. Dulles had underlined the importance of this aspect of NATO co-operation and had made a very searching and serious statement about the future of NATO in the light of the new developments. Mr. Dulles had not been unduly pessimistic about the future, but he had stated that NATO had reached a new stage of its development and that NATO unity could no longer be based on fear.

The Minister pointed out that it was easier to talk about these subjects than to agree on immediate action which might be taken. It had become clear as the discussion developed that the Ministers would not be able to come to a final agreement at that time as to what should be done. The Council, therefore, decided to set up a Committee of three Foreign Ministers, who would continue to examine the problems of non-military co-operation and report back to the Council.

It was hoped that the three Ministers would be able to get in touch with the various member governments during the following two or three months and hold discussions which would be a continuation and amplification of the talks held in Paris. The three Ministers would then meet and prepare a report to the Council with specific recommendations as to what might be done to strengthen non-military co-operation between NATO countries; they would also examine the relationship between NATO and other international agencies. In addition, Mr. Pearson continued, the Committee of Three would look into the economic aspects of non-military co-operation as envisaged in Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty. He reported that the French Foreign Minister had submitted proposals at Paris for economic action through the United Nations. This plan called for the NATO countries to initiate, although not necessarily to sponsor, a new programme of international economic assistance. The Italian Foreign Minister had made proposals of a somewhat similar nature and a very good discussion of this subject had ensued.

Mr. Pearson said that the NATO Council had also considered a report on the work of the Disarmament Sub-Committee in London and had held a useful discussion of the situation in the Middle East and its relation to NATO, with particular reference to North Africa and Israel.

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Mr. Pearkes, M.P. for Esquimalt-Sannich, asked whether the Minister foresaw any large increase in the financial contribution which Canada would be required to make to NATO in view of the new emphasis being placed on