

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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### THE NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

A statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, broadcast by the C.B.C. National Network on April 3, 1959, in observance of the tenth anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Ten years ago, the representatives of twelve European and North American countries met in Washington to put their signatures to a Treaty which involved an untried experiment in international affairs. They signed the North Atlantic Treaty, a regional alliance within the framework of the United Nations, designed for the mutual defence and economic betterment of countries having a common interest across and about the North Atlantic area.

Now expanded to include fifteen nations, the members of NATO have been meeting this week in Washington to continue the work to which the organization is dedicated. They have been discussing common problems and charting the course to be followed in the coming months. This has been one of the most important meetings ever held by the Ministers of NATO Governments, for during the coming months discussions will be held with the U.S.S.R., designed to remove tensions which have divided East and West in Europe.

When NATO was formed the threat of aggression against the West was most apparent, if not imminent. The unity of the nations forming NATO has acted as a deterrent to the U.S.S.R. in its aggressive designs, and has continued to do so ever since. That peace has been maintained in Europe is in large part the result of the unity of these nations.

NATO is entirely defensive in its aim and purposes, as are its member countries which stretch from the Bosphorus, through the heart of Western Europe, and across the Atlantic Ocean to the western shores of North America.