

to the security and prosperity of the Atlantic area and will, I know, continue to do so in the future.

The North Atlantic Treaty has been regarded mainly till now as the legal basis for building a defensive military alliance to protect the peace and deter aggression. This is, of course, the most urgent and immediate task confronting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and until our security is placed on a sure and unassailable basis, it is difficult to give nearly as much attention as we would like to other aspects of the Treaty. But apart from its short-term military aim, the Treaty has the long-term and important objective of promoting the economic stability and social well-being of the peoples of the countries concerned. This objective is laid down in Article 2 of the Treaty which has rightly been regarded as being largely of Canadian inspiration. NATO now has a Committee of five ministers which is directing its attention to the concrete steps that might be taken to implement this Article, including the co-ordination of foreign policies and means to promote the economic and social welfare of the peoples of the North Atlantic area.

What we are working on and for however is not some elaborate scheme of North Atlantic federation, which might distract us from the immediate needs of the joint defence programme, but rather for more efficient co-operative working arrangements and practices.

Up to the present, NATO has been regarded as an association of equal, sovereign states. But from time to time it is suggested that if we cannot have a formal federation, we should at least create some kind of central political executive authority. This, however, also presents its problems for the members of NATO. It may be that eventually we will decide to share and pool our national sovereignties in some kind of federation to a greater extent than we do at present, not only for the more effective and speedy building up of our common defences, but also to further our common political and economic interests. But this is not in the realm of practical politics at this time. At present therefore we should be and are more concerned with the reorganization and streamlining of NATO in its present form as an association of states. Our experience of the last two years shows that this is desirable and necessary. I hope that it will take place at the forthcoming meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Lisbon, so that in the future important decisions can be reached more speedily than at present, and necessary action taken without undue delay. As a matter of fact, some of those decisions will have to be made soon. One of the most important of these is that concerning the European army and its relation to NATO.

The European army is one aspect of a very important move, that towards European unity. There are those on this side of the Atlantic who, drawing false analogies with the American colonies of 200 years ago, are impatient with the progress that has been made in this direction. Far from being impatient, however, they should be pleased and surprised at how far this movement has gone. After all, the countries concerned are not new colonial settlements, but nations with long histories and a deep pride in those histories; nations which have had a separate existence for centuries which cannot easily be abandoned, as some appear to think, overnight.

In this movement towards European unity the position of Germany is all important. If she can be included in it -