

Most of the European members of that Alliance have made an outstanding economic recovery. They are in a very strong position; for example, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Some, of course, are not in such a good position. Naturally there are problems.

Here you have these 15 nations and, as I say, there are problems. One which has worried Canada considerably has been to ensure adequate consultation. Last fall the big powers were talking about a summit meeting and other subjects and they were not agreeing. One thought this should be done and another thought that should be done, and instead of going to the NATO Council and airing their troubles there they said nothing about them. All the press in all the NATO countries started to speculate, as the press will do quite naturally. The press made quite a lot of good guesses, and the whole story was on the front page of all the papers in Canada, in the United States, in France and in England. The whole story was there, and yet there were no adequate consultations in NATO.

When I went to Paris in October I had an opportunity to speak to the NATO Council and emphasized on behalf of Canada that we thought there would have to be a far better system of consultation. I made the same submissions to President de Gaulle, to Prime Minister Debré and to Mr. Couve de Murville the Foreign Minister of France, also to Prime Minister Macmillan and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, and they all agreed. The Americans agreed at Camp David a few weeks later. Everybody was perfectly willing to consult, but they still were not consulting.

The smaller nations, of course, agreed with us that there was great need to get a somewhat better system.

One direct result was that, when the Western summit meeting was held in Paris in December, there were consultations in the NATO Council before that was held, and there were also consultations after. The Foreign Ministers of The Four came together and reported to the NATO Council. The report was not treated in a perfunctory way. It had quite a going over at that meeting of the Council which followed the meeting of The Four.

The same plan is to be followed this year. There is to be a meeting of the Heads of Government of the four Western Powers, I think in April but in any event there are to be consultations with the NATO Council at each stage.

France, of course, has a special problem in Algeria. After the events of the last 10 days or two weeks, I am sure the Canadian people will have a far clearer realization of the very difficult problems France has been facing and still faces in Algeria. She has an outstanding Foreign Minister in Mr. Couve de Murville. He speaks with great logic and great friendliness. He is very well liked in the NATO Council. I suggest that Canada must at all times have the deepest understanding for France and her problems. She, of course, is one of our mother countries,