

and Berlin. Canada urged steady Western policies in the face of expected oscillations on the Communist side and the avoidance of too much rigidity in reacting to Soviet proposals. On disarmament, the ministers deplored the lack of progress caused by the Communist walkout from the Ten-Nation Committee before even examining the Western proposals. They underlined their support for the principles contained in those proposals and expressed hope for the early resumption of negotiations.

On defence, the ministers reviewed the present state of the collective defence effort and the problems involved in modernizing the NATO shield forces. There was general agreement that, in the face of growing Communist military strength, NATO members must be able to respond to any attack with whatever force might be appropriate. In particular, attention was drawn to the need to maintain a proper balance between the conventional and nuclear military strength of the alliance, in order to provide the required flexibility of response to any aggression.

Important suggestions concerning NATO nuclear policy were put forward for discussion by the United States. One of these constituted a guarantee by the United States Government to maintain in the NATO area nuclear weapons made available to NATO. This was welcomed by all the ministers as an expression of United States intentions not to withdraw nuclear weapons already in Europe in accordance with agreed NATO plans. The United States delegation also put forward the novel idea of a multilateral MRBM force involving joint participation and financing by NATO members. A related suggestion, also advanced for discussion as part of the conception, involved the movement to European waters of five submarines equipped with Polaris missiles. Following the presentation of these suggestions to the Council, the ministers immediately acknowledged that such a conception involved complex political, economic and financial considerations. Accordingly, they noted the suggestions with great interest and instructed the Permanent Council to study them and related matters in detail. On the political aspects of long-term planning there was general agreement that the object of consultation on problems directly related to the area covered by the North Atlantic Treaty is to obtain as wide a measure of agreement as possible and preferably a common position. Concerning consultation on other questions, most members, including Canada, supported the view that the purpose of such consultation should be to enable member countries to make one another aware of attitudes and preoccupations before firm national positions are taken. During the discussion, Canada took the lead in stressing the importance of presenting a good image of the alliance, especially in the eyes of newly-independent United Nations members, and the disadvantages of NATO members attempting to act as a bloc at the United Nations. The Canadian delegation urged the adoption by NATO members of a positive attitude towards the United Nations as the main world forum reflecting accurately the world we live in.

On the economic aspects of long-term planning, the ministers discussed NATO's role and the importance to be attached to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development as an association that would permit practical implementation of many of the principles of Atlantic economic co-operation set out in Article II of the North Atlantic Treaty. Canada endorsed the general view that NATO had a special role to play in respect of economic problems directly related to the common defence effort and in developing the political will necessary to counter those