

The United States move toward closer collaboration within NATO, which was discussed with the United Kingdom in bilateral talks between the President and Mr. Macmillan last October, envisaged renewed efforts to strengthen the collective defence of the Alliance in a spirit of trust and interdependence. Interdependence meant the rationalization of force contributions, defence production, and co-operative scientific research so as to make the fullest use of the resources of each and all of the member countries.

The Prime Minister, on his return from Paris (December 21) described the atmosphere of the meeting in the House of Commons in the following words: "Never have I seen a group of men less actuated by any purpose other than to achieve, or to lay the foundations for, peace and so to act that the 450 million people whom they represented will at least know that everything has been done and everything will be done to ensure through negotiation the maintenance of our way of life; that we are prepared, not in a spirit of appeasement, but with a realization of the awful realities that face us, to go as far as possible to bring about that climate and that atmosphere which will ensure the laying of the foundation, internationally, of peace through disarmament."

Disarmament

It was in this spirit that Heads of Government reviewed the current deadlock with the Soviet Union on disarmament. They noted that the Western proposals on disarmament were rejected en bloc by the Soviet Union although they had been approved by 56 members of the United Nations. They expressed regret that the Soviet Union has brought about a deadlock in the disarmament negotiations by declaring their intention to boycott the United Nations Disarmament Commission which had been extended, by a strong majority of the General Assembly, to include 25 nations.

In spite of these setbacks the Heads of Governments stated their willingness to promote, preferably within the United Nations, any negotiations with the U.S.S.R. likely to lead to the implementation of the Western proposals. They further expressed their willingness to examine any proposal, from whatever source, for general or partial disarmament. Finally, they indicated that, should the Soviet Government refuse to participate in the work of the new Disarmament Commission, NATO would welcome a meeting at Foreign Ministers level to resolve the deadlock.

In the light of this deadlock on disarmament, the Heads of Government had to consider the steps to be taken to strengthen the military forces of the Alliance. They noted that the Soviet leaders, while preventing a general disarmament agreement, had made it clear that the most modern and destructive weapons, including missiles or all kinds, were being introduced in the Soviet armed forces. They decided that as long as the Soviet Union persists in this attitude, NATO has no alternative but to remain vigilant and look to its defences and to achieve the most effective pattern of NATO military defensive strength.

To this end the Heads of Government decided to establish stocks of nuclear warheads which would be readily available for the defence of the Alliance in case of need. They also decided, in view of the present Soviet policies in the field of new weapons, that intermediate range ballistic missiles