

It is obvious that military strength is dependent on economic strength. This important fact alone makes it necessary for NATO constantly to keep before it the economic objectives of the treaty. It is the task of NATO to see that the members through their participation in other organizations are furthering the desired objectives. This can be effected through the machinery of the organization which has already been created. The North Atlantic Council meets on the ministerial level about twice a year. On these occasions the countries usually are represented by their foreign, defence and finance ministers. The meetings are presided over by the Chairman, who is the foreign minister of one of the NATO countries. Apart from these meetings on the ministerial level, the Council is in continuous session. This is the result of the reorganization which was approved at the Lisbon meeting last year. Each of the NATO countries has a permanent representative in Paris. When the Council meets on the level of the permanent representatives, the meetings are presided over by the Vice-Chairman, who is also the Secretary-General of the Organization. In the latter capacity he is head of a Secretariat which has now become firmly established. With such a set-up, NATO is in a position to survey continuously not only the military build-up but also the progress which is being made towards the realization of the non-military objectives.

If a great deal of attention has not been paid to these objectives until now, it is because the North Atlantic countries have had to concentrate first of all on the building up of military strength. When they reach that plateau of re-armament upon which real security is found, they should be able to broaden out their efforts to embrace all of the objectives incorporated in the treaty. In the meantime, they are acquiring valuable experience by co-operating together in the defence field and by consulting with one another upon important political questions. This experience will stand them in good stead when they are able to devote more attention to co-operation in the economic, social and cultural fields.

We must remember that nationalism is still a very potent force. It is unrealistic to think that the force which set the pattern for the history of the last one hundred and fifty years should cease to be a predominating influence simply because some of us now see the need for closer political and economic integration. All of our countries are reluctant to forego any of their sovereignty. Nevertheless, the reality of the threat to their security and the growing realization of the many drawbacks of excessive nationalism are compelling the North Atlantic nations to work together. These countries are conscious that they belong to a group with common ideals, a common culture, and a common share in the fate of a well-defined geographical region. This region has provided the stage on which have been enacted most of the significant events in world history. The peoples of the North Atlantic community have fashioned the civilization that has spread throughout the now contracted world. We can be confident that they will find the solution of the problem presented by the disadvantages of excessive nationalism.