

I apologize for detaining the House so long, but at Lisbon we considered other than military questions and I should report on them. The first and most immediately important of those questions was that of the reorganization of NATO or, as I would prefer to call it, the adapting of the NATO organization to its new functions and its new responsibilities. Probably the most important decision under this head was that, instead of having the Council meet two, three or four times a year with Deputies meeting in between the Council would be established in permanent session with the ministers attending when required. There were to be representatives of the ministers and the governments acting for them in between ministerial meetings. These permanent representatives are now being appointed by the various governments, and the Canadian representative was nominated the other day. I hope that, among other things, this will reduce the necessity for so many ministerial meetings.

In connection with this reorganization we approved the abolition of the existing civilian agencies, such as the Finance and Economic Board, the Defence Production Board and the Maritime Shipping Board. These will now become committees of the Council. After a great deal of discussion we also agreed that the permanent headquarters of NATO should be located in an area in which other international agencies were located whose work is important to or closely related with NATO, and with whom co-operation is essential. This brought us to Paris. We agreed also that there should be, as the senior permanent official of the Organization, a Secretary-General who would be not only a Secretary-General in the usual sense of that office but a member of the Council and, indeed, the Vice-Chairman of the Council. As you know, Lord Ismay has been appointed to that office, a man of wisdom, tact, experience and modesty. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is very fortunate in securing him.

Finally, under this head, we discussed non-military co-operation. The Committee of Five, which was set up as the House knows some months ago, made its report on this subject. Just to remove any doubt in this House that we were only concerned with military matters, I should like to read some paragraphs from this report.

"... The Committee wishes to emphasize that the process of achieving cohesive relationships among the countries of the North Atlantic community is necessarily a slow one, and that it would be a mistake to expect rapid or spectacular achievements. In this field it is necessary to build carefully on a solid foundation. The immediate and urgent aim of the North Atlantic Treaty is the common defence. The degree of success which is attained in defence co-operation will in large part determine the progress which can be made in strengthening the Atlantic community in its wider aspects. The sense of community, the experience, and the habits of co-operation which the development of collective defence has engendered form the essential basis for the growth of collaboration in fields other than defence."

The report went on: