

I now turn to the second series of arrangements, which are intended to associate a sovereign German Federal Republic with NATO and with the move toward European unity which has been interrupted. When these agreements go into effect we shall have a new organization which we now call Western European Union. That new organization is essentially a modified version of the structure based on the Brussels Treaty of 1948, with this one important difference which I have already mentioned. To the original members of the Brussels organization are now added Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany. So Western European Union can be considered as an alternative method of achieving much the same purposes which the European Defence Community had been designed to achieve.

There are, of course, some differences. There are in particular two main differences: The first difference is the inclusion of the United Kingdom in Western European Union with that historic, courageous and, in my opinion, far-reaching pledge which she gave for the maintenance of four divisions and the second tactical airforce on the continent of Europe for another 44 years. The second main difference is that the European Defence Community placed greater emphasis on supra-national features.

Western European Union will have a permanent council, an assembly and an agency for the control of armaments to be set up by and under the authority of the council. The council will sit in London and the armament control agency is to sit in Paris, where it will work in close co-operation with the NATO secretariat and for carrying out its duties will use to the greatest possible extent NATO personnel.

I now come to an extremely important part of the WEU agreements, namely that part which gives Germany the right to rearm. Much attention has been paid to this right which it is now proposed to give, but not so much attention has been paid to the way in which it is limited and controlled. I should therefore like to put on record what these limitations and controls are.

The first is that the maximum forces to be permitted to Germany under WEU are the same as those which would have been permitted under EDC, namely 500,000 men organized into not more than twelve divisions with 1,350 fighter -- that is defensive -- aircraft. That number must not be increased except by the unanimous consent of the Western European council. Second, all German forces, if and when they are constituted, are to be brought under the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, SACEUR, and are to be integrated into NATO forces. That means that there will be no separate German national army apart from NATO. Nor has Germany, under this agreement, the right to deploy her own forces. That can only be