

was reaffirmed in the communiqué issued at the termination of the NATO Council meeting. Then, coupled with the consideration of the problem of Germany as a whole, they indicated their urgent willingness and desire to have discussions on the related issues of European security and disarmament.

In addition to supporting the position taken by the Western occupying powers, members of the Council - and I refer you to the communiqué I have mentioned - reiterated the stand of the occupying powers that NATO is a defensive organization. They also said, Mr. Speaker, that in respect of Berlin they desired to leave no doubt as to the determination of the Alliance to stand fast and to employ its defensive capacity in the event of aggression against Berlin or any interference with the arrangements that had been duly entered into between the occupying powers and the U.S.S.R. in a series of meetings culminating in 1949.

In giving this undertaking in respect of Berlin, neither the Council nor its individual members was assuming obligations that were new. Indeed, the NATO partners have been bound in respect of the defence of Berlin since October 22, 1954. This obligation was undertaken by the NATO Council on the occasion of West Germany joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, when all the other members of the Alliance formally associated themselves with the provisions declared earlier, in the month of October, 1954 that the three occupying powers would remain in Berlin so long as their responsibilities so required. The text of the obligation assumed by Canada, as a member of NATO, is, and I quote:

"to treat any attack against Berlin from any quarter as an attack upon their forces and themselves."

Members of the House, Mr. Speaker, may recall that on December 31 - that was after the termination of the meeting of the NATO Council - the United States, the United Kingdom and France sent replies to the Soviet note of November 27, 1958. In these replies, which had been discussed in the NATO Council, the three occupying powers reaffirmed their right to be in Berlin, and they condemned the Soviet Union's unilateral denunciation of the agreements relating to Berlin to which I referred. In these notes of December 31, 1958 the occupying powers stated that they could not accept the repudiation by the Soviet Union of these obligations in this way, and that they could not consider proposals which would jeopardize the freedom of the West Berlin population.

Speaking in geographical terms, Mr. Speaker, I may say that here is a community, West Berlin, of 2.5 million people, which is 110 miles east of the West German border. This little