



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sidney E. Smith, at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association, Seigniory Club, May 27, 1958.

... I intend to speak today about one important element in the pattern of our foreign relations. I refer to the North Atlantic Treaty - the insurance policy which, as a nation, we have taken out to deter aggression and to collaborate with our allies in the pursuit of peace. Our NATO insurance is vital to our national life; the annual premiums are high. Because you in your profession appreciate the value of sacrifice and prudent foresight, I know that NATO needs no justifying in your eyes. Yet I am sure that you will agree that it does no harm for the insured to take stock periodically of their policies, to attend meetings of shareholders, and to consider whether their changing needs are cared for by the investment which they have made. It is in this sense that I desire to speak to you about NATO and in particular about the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers which I attended last month in Copenhagen.

Fifteen nations were represented: two (the United States and Canada) from North America; three from the Scandinavian area (Denmark, Norway and Iceland); three bordering the Mediterranean (Italy, Greece and Turkey); and the remaining seven from what we may call Western Europe (Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom). Of these fifteen members, twelve are original signatories of the treaty, which came into effect in 1949. Two, Greece and Turkey, joined in 1951; the remaining one, the Federal Republic of Germany, became a member only three years ago, in May 1955.

It is, I think, useful when we consider the current activities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to recall the circumstances of its establishment nearly ten years ago. It has been said many times and with reason that NATO is not simply a military response to a military challenge. True, the element of military danger was undoubtedly present at the time when the Treaty was being prepared - the Berlin crisis was a sharp and timely reminder of the Soviet mood - and even