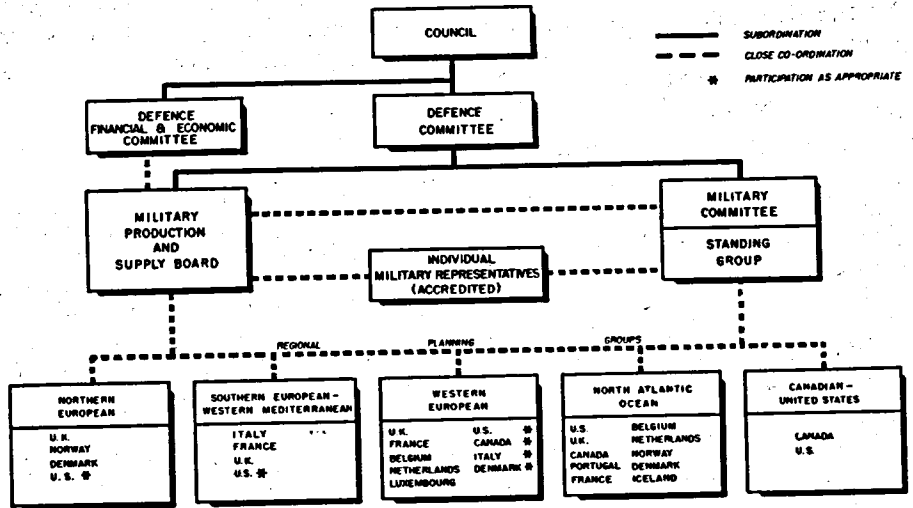


NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION



The Defence Committee, the senior defence body under the Council, is normally composed of the Defence Ministers of the Parties. It is charged with recommending measures for the implementation of Articles 3 and 5 of the Treaty. Two meetings have already been held. On October 5 in Washington, in accordance with a directive from the Council, the Defence Committee established a Military Committee composed of the Chiefs of Staff of all the Parties except Iceland (which has no such organization and declined representation). At its second meeting in Paris on December 1, the Defence Committee approved a strategic concept for the integrated defence of the North Atlantic area which had been prepared in the interim by the Military Committee. It thereby enabled the Regional Planning Groups to begin immediately to formulate plans for the defence of their particular areas using the agreed concept as a basic guide.

The Military Committee, which so far has met immediately before or after the meetings of the Defence Committee, is charged with advising the Defence Committee and other agencies on military matters as appropriate and with recommending to the Defence Committee military measures for the unified defence of the North Atlantic area. It is assisted in its work by a Standing Group which functions continuously in Washington and is composed of representatives of the Chiefs of Staff of the United States, the United Kingdom and France. The Standing Group is given the responsibility of co-ordinating and integrating the defence plans originating in the various Regional Planning Groups. Primarily established in the interests of efficiency, it does not in any sense constitute three-power control over military planning under the Treaty. Before it is permitted to make recommendations regarding the use of the forces, facilities or resources of a Party not represented on it, that Party has the right to participate in its work in formulating such recommendations; the Parties may appoint a liaison representative to the Standing Group.