

I think they are in contact with each other as to the procedure which should be followed in discussing the atomic energy aspect of disarmament when the commission meets.

Well, the powers who are principally concerned in this discussion felt at the last meeting of the assembly—and the feeling was based on the somewhat unhappy experience of the past—that a public discussion of this matter would be undesirable and that the best chance of making progress in this field would be to have private discussions at the beginning. Consideration is now being given by the three governments I have mentioned, as to how this might most usefully be brought about. We would expect in the normal course of events that Canada would be one of the countries included in that subcommittee group, but we are not sure that this will be the case.

However, I think that atomic matters will be brought under consideration again and I am sure that we all agree that it is time to have another look at it. Possibly we may want to go into these matters in greater detail later on.

So far as NATO is concerned.

Mr. KNOWLES: Before the report—

The CHAIRMAN: Was it not agreed to allow the minister to speak and afterwards go around? When we take one subject we will stick to it until we are through with it. But at the moment, I think we should let the minister finish his remarks.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: In so far as the NATO organization is concerned the council which met last December, is meeting again in Paris on April 23.

The only subject now on the agenda is an exchange of views on the world situation which covers a good deal of ground. It will be different from previous council meetings because only foreign ministers will be there. Defence questions and the financial aspect of defence questions will be discussed at a subsequent meeting of the council when all three ministers in the various governments will be represented: But this is a meeting to give the foreign ministers of the member countries a chance to exchange views on recent developments. At the last meeting in December we had a couple of meetings which were restricted in character in the sense that the room was not full of advisers and experts as is often the case at NATO meetings. Sometimes there have been from 100 to 150 people in the room, which does not make for or provide a very good inducement for the frank discussion which you can get around a smaller table.

We had a restricted meeting in Paris last December and it turned out to be a very useful one. That will be the kind of meeting that we expect to have in Paris later in April, and at this meeting we may discuss questions such as the one I just mentioned, international control of atomic energy, and whether we have any new ideas on that subject. I hope also that we will discuss measures to make consultation more effective within the North Atlantic Council. This is something very much in our minds. Also we may take advantage of the opportunity to exchange views on some of the subjects which will be coming up at the Geneva conference which opens three days after the North Atlantic Council, on April 26.

That brings me to the only other matter which I want to mention in this general survey, and that is the Geneva conference. Preparations for that conference have been pretty well completed. As I have just said, it opens at Geneva, on April 26. Invitations have been sent for the conference on the United Nations side by the United States to all governments whose forces participated in United Nations military operations in Korea. I believe that they have all accepted that invitation with the exception of South Africa and Luxembourg; and, up to the present time, the government of the Republic