

when we discuss this organization, what we usually think of as designed particularly in fact exclusively to prevent war by creating enough military strength among its members to act as a deterrent to aggression.

But there is another side to NATO, that of non-military co-operation. Here we are trying to lay the foundation of an association which will last far beyond the emergency which created it, and will go far deeper than a military alliance could ever go. This is the idea in our minds when we talk about building up the North Atlantic community.

That term "the North Atlantic community", has been widely used recently in speeches and editorials and there is a growing interest in the significance to be attached to it. Mr. Churchill, that towering and majestic figure, in the speech he made at the time of his recent visit to Ottawa, said that the North Atlantic Treaty was not only a solemn compact that was the surest guarantee of the prevention of war but also that "it is broadening out into the conception of the North Atlantic community of free nations, acting together not only for defence but for the welfare and happiness and progress of all the peoples of the free world."

But what do we mean by this term "North Atlantic community"? I admit it often seems to be vague and imprecise. As it concerns a basic movement in the affairs of men, it cannot, perhaps should not, be too rigidly defined.

I think, however, that three general meanings can be attributed to it. In one sense it is the feeling of sharing things in common that already exists among the peoples of Western Europe and North America, a feeling that we become more conscious of as the threat from Communist imperialism spreads and deepens. The Atlantic peoples have common traditions and spiritual values derived from the same Greek, Roman and Christian sources. They share a common culture and civilization. There already exists, therefore, a natural and permanent foundation for a community of interest and action.

In the second sense, the term may be applied to the process of closer intercourse and integration which we can readily detect is operating among the countries on both sides of the North Atlantic. This is a slow, almost instinctive development going on without being deliberately willed or planned.

Thirdly, the term is now being used increasingly to mean a deliberate and positive programme to speed up the creation of a working partnership between the governments and peoples of the countries concerned in order to serve better their common political, economic and security interests.

It is the third meaning, of a creative programme to strengthen the NATO association, that I would like to say a word or two about.

It is particularly appropriate that I should dwell a little on the developing North Atlantic community in speaking to a Halifax audience, for this historic port and city has played a large part in the affairs of the Atlantic community for two centuries. Indeed, no city in Canada is so closely linked with the destiny of the Atlantic seaboard. In peace and war, Halifax has made a great and honourable contribution