

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Paris and the planning of NATO defence. He spoke of the determination of the NATO countries to take appropriate action in maintaining the alliance strong. He cited as an example of this attitude the reply made by former Prime Minister Caramanlis of Greece to Mr. Khrushchov's threat to destroy the Acropolis. Mr. Caramanlis had said that, although it may be within the power of the Soviet Premier to destroy the monument itself, "he cannot destroy ideals of which the sacred rock of the Acropolis is the symbol and which are stronger than any rockets". "This", said General Norstad, "is the answer of a free nation of free men. It trumpets the high, clear note of freedom for all the world to hear."

Theme of the Assembly

The task of the Assembly this year was to define the part which the Atlantic alliance must play in face of the Communist offensive in the political, economic and military fields, with particular regard to the need of achieving the maximum degree of unity between its members.

The subject was divided into three sections, with one day's sessions devoted to each: (a) Atlantic unity in the field of foreign policy; (b) Atlantic unity in the economic field; (c) Atlantic unity in the field of psychological warfare and military strategy. At each session, two speakers opened the discussions. Dr. Martin Blank (Germany) and Mr. Randolph Burgess (U.S.A.) spoke on the economic questions; Mr. P. Mahias, M.P. (France), and General S. Yalistras (Greece), on the military aspects; and Mr. Geoffrey de Freitas, M.P. (United Kingdom), and Mr. I. Matteo Lombardo (Italy), on the political problems. They dealt particularly with economic co-operation among European NATO countries and the prospects of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; with the psychological warfare waged by the Soviet Union and the measures that should be adopted to defeat it; with the strategic problems of the Atlantic alliance, with special reference to its dispositions and requirements in Southeastern Europe; and with the prospects of improving political consultation in the North Atlantic Council and the task of the ATA in helping to overcome differences between the Allied peoples.

The Assembly concluded its labours on September 29 with a "Statement of International Policy" and a "Declaration" of the unity of purpose of the 15 member nations of the Atlantic Treaty Association toward the development of a Western Community of Nations and toward the defeat of Communism. The statement emphasized that the work of the Assembly was the public expression by the citizens of the nations of the alliance of that unity of purpose required to confront successfully the ominous, world-wide challenge of the Communist offensive — an offensive that was military in nature but was also aimed at disintegrating their political, economic and social structure. It reiterated that, as individuals dedicated to the task of preserving human rights and human dignity, delegates were determined to strengthen the seamless fabric of freedom being woven daily by peoples around the globe.