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NATO AND DEFENCE

Canada and NATO

Until the United Nations is capable of ensuring world peace and security, Canada regards its membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as necessary and natural. The continued presence of Canadian air and land forces in Europe, coupled with active participation in the work of the North Atlantic Council, reflects Canada's firm support for NATO and its objectives. In addition, Canada's naval forces in the North Atlantic remain ready to assume responsibilities under the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic should the need arise.

The regular spring meeting of the NATO foreign ministers was convened in Istanbul early in May. It was concerned primarily with the preparation of the position the three Western negotiating powers might adopt at the expected summit conference with the Soviet Union in Paris. The main subjects for consideration were disarmament, Germany and Berlin, and East-West relations.

Following a special meeting on May 1 of the foreign ministers of Canada and the other four Western members of the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee, their reports were considered by the Council and general agreement was reached on the need to pursue the aim of general and complete disarmament by stages under effective international control.

On the problems of Germany and Berlin the NATO ministers endorsed the approach that the three negotiating powers planned to use at the summit. The Council also reaffirmed publicly its view that the solution of the problem of Germany could only be found in reunification on the basis of self-determination; it recalled its declaration of December 16, 1958, and once again expressed the determination of NATO members to protect the freedom of the people of West Berlin.

A broad range of subjects was covered under the heading of East-West relations. One important conclusion was that NATO members expressed their desire to obtain a true international *détente*; the alliance could not be satisfied with a formula of "peaceful coexistence" under cover of which attacks continued to be made on individual members. It was agreed that the efforts of Soviet propaganda to discredit the Federal Republic of Germany and the governments of certain other NATO countries were inimical to the alliance as a whole and inconsistent with a real improvement of international relations.

The 1960 annual ministerial meeting, which convened in Paris from December 16 to 18, covered many of the same questions in the light of the summit failure. Its central issues, however, were related to the NATO defence effort and long-term planning.

After reviewing the situation following the collapse of the summit meeting, the ministers reaffirmed their determination to work for an improvement in international relations, their conception of true peaceful coexistence and the principles guiding the Western position on Germany