

In Oslo we shall also discuss the international situation generally. There are many problems arising in all parts of the world which will be considered, and our general approach is that Canada should do everything possible to strengthen NATO. In this connection we attach considerable importance to the efforts which are being made in the context of long-term planning to define the main problems and objectives of the alliance with a view to charting a guide line for the future. At the same time we believe that in preparing for the future years we should not minimize or under-rate NATO's accomplishments, and in particular, the essential contribution it has made and continues to make to the preservation of world peace and security.

As a going concern NATO's future viability will depend largely on its ability to adapt itself to a changing world; a world of emerging new nations and revitalized old ones. It has to face complex new challenges, political, economic, psychological, as well as military, which are continuing to develop.

One of the striking features of the world today is that the situations which pose a serious potential threat to world peace often arise in the peripheral areas of the globe, as for example, in the Congo and Laos.

Canada believes that to deal with such situations we must often rely on the activities of agency or peace-keeping machinery sponsored by or under the auspices of broadly-based organizations such as the United Nations. We consider that these peace-keeping activities are complementary to the efforts of the alliance to maintain world peace and security. Canada believes that the long-term aims of the alliance can be furthered if all members are prepared to recognize the important role of those peace-keeping activities in the preservation of world peace and are willing to lend their full support.

During the debate there may be some discussion with regard to trade and economic matters and the role of NATO in that particular field. I believe that the objectives of the new Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development known as the O.E.C.D. are fully consistent with those embodied in Article II of the North Atlantic Treaty alliance. Indeed, the new organization reflects the continuing desire of NATO countries to develop closer and more intimate relations in the economic field and provides an opportunity to translate into concrete measures and achievement the aims of Article II. NATO, however, continues to have a most important role to play in assessing the implications for the alliance of the economic developments and policies of the Sino-Soviet Bloc and, through consultations, in developing the political will among NATO countries to find solutions for economic problems which threaten to weaken the alliance or which threaten to provide opportunities for the extension of Communist influence. In the words of Mr. Spaak, NATO can and must serve as the "political conscience" of the Atlantic community of Nations. We shall be doing our best to build