

and brilliant statesman, that great European and believer, as well, in Atlantic unity, Paul Henri Spaak.

It is not, however, the machinery which matters so much. It is the will of governments to use that machinery to bring about close co-operation and harmony in the formulation and execution of policy.

If we do not display that will, with something of the determination and desire - and even passion - that we show in national affairs, then NATO will weaken and eventually die for it will be solely a military alliance held together only by a common fear and disappearing when that fear disappears or, perhaps, seems to disappear.

### A Supreme Test

The Atlantic nations are now facing a supreme test of their capacity to unite. If they fail in this, they may find it difficult to prosper and even survive as free nations. This test is the inescapable result of the tragic experiences of the recent past. Success in meeting it is made the more essential by the awful necessities of a thermo-nuclear future. Can we combine our national strengths, merge our national policies, and modify our national prides and prejudices to meet this test; or will we relax into that anarchical and jealous independence which seems unfortunately to have been the characteristic and dominating feature of sovereign states in modern times, except when they are confronted with great and pressing peril.

Mutual understanding is, I believe, the quality that will help us most in finding the right answer through the greater strength and unity of NATO members - understanding, patience and tolerance, as we try to meet collectively a destiny which in any case will be collective.

This essential understanding between us is hindered by any things; including the differences within the NATO states of power and historical development and tradition. May I mention one way in which these differences reflect themselves and create misunderstanding. Our own two countries, the United States and Canada, have emerged although by different roads, from colonial status; yours by the one which led to battle, ours by the one which led to conference. As two states, covering a great continent, we have no need for living and working space for our people outside our boundaries; therefore, no temptation to absorb other areas for their riches or resources, of which we have an abundance at home. Both historical and practical considerations, therefore, enable us to indulge to the utmost our North American desire for moral satisfaction by sympathizing with and supporting peoples who have just won or are seeking to win national independence from other powers. This is a worthy instinct and one for which we have no reason to apologize. But we should not let it obscure the truth that whatever the defects of colonial policies and practices over the last two centuries may have been