

*North Atlantic Treaty*

which went into the military plans to see if they were realistic, to see if those that had already been drawn up by the military committee of the North Atlantic council were realistic, whether they could be cut or whether there should be additions to them.

Having done that the report examined what was called the political and economic capabilities of the various members to see if those capabilities matched the military requirements. When this study was completed by the committee of three, after they had discussed the various national programs with the national representatives, their report, as a report of the small committee, was then sent to the full committee of twelve. We have now had an opportunity of examining that report at a meeting of the committee of twelve. It has been sent back to us for governmental consideration. After being considered by the governments there will be another committee meeting on January 15. At that time we have reason to hope and believe there will be a report for the North Atlantic council which will be unanimously agreed to by all the members.

Until that report is received and until some member of the council gets up and states that he is not able to accept it there can be no question of any member of the council being charged with inability or lack of desire to meet its commitments. That is the situation so far as Canada is concerned, and indeed so far as the other countries are concerned.

My hon. friend also asked me how many months behind schedule were the NATO military plans and whether there was likely to be a breakdown of those plans. Although I have not the time to go into the matter, I would say there has been no breakdown of NATO military plans and it is not realistic at the present time to talk about those plans being behind schedule. The plans are being changed continually by the military committees of the organization, and they may be changed further as a result of this T.C.C. report. In some respects the plans are being speeded up over the original plans and in other respects they are being extended. I am afraid that will be the situation for years ahead. They will be continually reviewed. At the present time no member country is satisfied with the progress that is being made, and I hope that we will continue to be impatient with that progress. But it is not accurate to say that there is any likelihood of any of these plans breaking down or any likelihood of the NATO organization breaking down in any respect.

I should like to turn for a moment to the remarks of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggarr (Mr. Coldwell). The hon. member was preoccupied with the lack of progress in the non-military aspect of co-operation, and was anxious to know what we were doing in regard to expediting and increasing that kind of co-operation between members. I did not say very much about that this morning but I can add a few words to what I said then. As the hon. member and house know, non-military co-operation under the North Atlantic pact has been one of the primary objectives of Canadian participation in the pact. We have never faltered in our desire to see article 2 implemented to the fullest possible extent. It was partly as a result of our initiative that a special council committee was set up last September to go into the whole question. That committee got to work in London in October and had a report for the Rome meeting in November. It was obvious that in the course of four or five weeks that committee could not make a very exhaustive report on the subject, but it has made a beginning and there will be a fuller report made to the Lisbon meeting.

One of the difficulties that confronts us when we go into this question of non-military co-operation is to make sure that in building up the co-operation which is desirable within NATO we do not prejudice the co-operation which exists between NATO countries and countries that are not members of NATO. We do not want to add another overlapping agency to a lot of other agencies. Also, some members are interested particularly in certain aspects of non-military co-operation that they desire to push, and other members have their own non-military interests. One or two of the countries in our committee for instance were particularly interested in using the NATO organization for migration purposes and the movement of labour. That is a subject of importance to all members, but it is one that cannot be settled in a week or a month or possibly a year.

Great interest has also been displayed in the possibility of improving political consultation among all members of NATO so that no one member of the organization would be confronted with an important political decision by another country without there having been an opportunity for consultation in the council itself. We are trying to work out ways and means by which that kind of consultation may be carried on almost continuously. This may require a reorganization of NATO itself. It may even require having the North Atlantic council