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THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

1. The North Atlantic Council

Three ministerial meetings of the North Atlantic Council were held in Paris during the year: on April 23 and 24, to review the international political situation as it affected NATO on the eve of the Geneva Conference on Far Eastern questions; on October 22, to approve measures and note decisions based on the preparatory work of the Nine-Power Conference in London; and on December 17 and 18, for the annual stock-taking session. The Secretary of State for External Affairs attended all three meetings, and was accompanied at the December meeting by the Minister of Defence Production and of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, and the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Campney.

Between ministerial meetings the Council remained, as usual, in permanent session. In fostering the habit of frank confidential discussion on international political and military developments of common concern, and improving the procedure therefor, considerable success was achieved. With the assistance of its subordinate committees and of the NATO Secretariat, the Council reviewed the progress of member countries' defence plans, supervised the expenditure of funds on commonly financed military installations ("infrastructure") and headquarters, studied the problems involved in civil defence and other peacetime readiness measures, and drew up plans to increase the public awareness of NATO and to improve cultural contacts between the member countries.

2. Germany and Western Defence

The most important development in NATO in 1954 was the decision to admit the German Federal Republic to the Organization and the agreement on accompanying arrangements designed to bring the Federal Republic into enduring association with the West and to promote European unity within the larger framework of the Atlantic community. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, on behalf of Canada, signed on October 23 the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty providing for the accession of the German Federal Republic. He was also present, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of France, at the signature on the same day of the Protocols to the Brussels Treaty providing for the accession of the Federal Republic and Italy and for the arrangements concerning the control of armed forces and armaments. He warmly welcomed these agreements, expressed the hope and confidence that there would be the closest possible co-operation between NATO and the new Western European Union, and emphasized that NATO would remain the focal point of Canada's participation in Western collective defence.

One of the main effects of the agreements, once they are ratified, will be to add to the forces of the alliance the German defence contribution