



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/30

REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, made in the House of Commons in Committee of Supply, May 28, 1954 on the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the Subcommittee of Disarmament Committee of the United Nations, and the Geneva Conference on Far Eastern Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, this item of my estimates gives me an opportunity, of which I am glad to avail myself, to make a report to the committee about my recent trip to Europe, during which I attended the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the early session, which were held in London, of the Subcommittee of the Disarmament Committee of the United Nations, which is concerned with disarmament in general and more particularly with the limitation or abolition of weapons of mass destruction; and finally, the Geneva conference on Far Eastern affairs.

So far as the North Atlantic Council meeting is concerned, there is little that I can add to the communiqué which was issued at the time. It was a short, regular meeting of the council, with ministerial representation, at which views were exchanged on the international situation generally, and on the western European and the Atlantic situation in particular, and during which we also discussed ways and means of making the council a more effective body for consultation on foreign affairs.

In so far as the Disarmament Subcommittee is concerned, as hon. members know, it consists of the representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, the U.S.S.R. and Canada. It was set up by the full committee to go into the question of disarmament, as I have said, in general, and atomic disarmament in particular, in restricted and private meetings, in the hope that by meetings of this kind progress might at least be more likely in a field of such transcendent importance as this is.

The Subcommittee will eventually report back to the full committee, and I am not in a position now, as I indicated to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre the other day, to report on the discussions that have taken place because of the nature of those discussions and because of the fact that they are still going on. I can say that, because of the restricted and private character of the meetings, we got to grips with this problem very quickly, and that grip has not been loosened.