

take into account the common interests of the members of the Alliance. If this can be achieved, the North Atlantic Alliance, which is so essential to the protection of Canadian interests, embracing as it does our closest neighbours and friends, can grow in strength and effectiveness. It is the hope of the Canadian Government that the Committee of Three Report will assist NATO in developing further the habit of thinking and acting in concert, so that it can meet and overcome critical situations as they develop.

Another important recommendation concerned the differences which may arise between members of the Alliance. The Council recognized that NATO members must do everything possible to eliminate conflicts among themselves, if they are to preserve the unity and strength essential for continuous co-operation in military and non-military fields; as a result of the report, the Secretary-General has now been empowered to initiate or to facilitate a number of procedures which should assist in the settlement of such disputes and differences between members of the Organization.

The report also recommended that NATO members promote cultural co-operation among their peoples by all practical means in order to strengthen their unity and develop maximum support for the Alliance.

Conclusions

Summing up the achievements of this NATO ministerial meeting, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, made the following statement to the Press on his return to Ottawa:

It was in my opinion the most important Council meeting which we have had, both because of the circumstances in which it met after a period of strain on the Alliance and because we laid down principles of co-operation and consultation in the non-military field—which if followed could remove much of the risk of the kind of differences which we have recently experienced. It was also important in that it showed that NATO was not hesitant about discussing the effect on the Alliance of developments outside the NATO area. These developments are, of course, not for NATO discussion alone—or indeed NATO consideration alone—but they are important for the Atlantic coalition which at this session of the North Atlantic Council faced up to their implications.

The appointment of Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak to the Secretary-Generalship of the Organization, in succession to Lord Ismay, which is to take effect next April, lent added significance to the approval accorded the recommendations of the Committee of Three for wider authority and powers for the Secretary-General, whose office now becomes a political as well as an administrative one. The selection of a political personality such as Belgium's Foreign Minister also underlined the new era into which NATO is entering with a new emphasis on non-military co-operation as an essential complement to continued co-operation in defence.