

not represented on it may appoint a permanent representative to it for liaison purposes.

In order to afford speedy and efficient planning of the unified defence of the whole North Atlantic area five Regional Planning Groups were established as follows:

- Northern European — Denmark, Norway, and the United Kingdom (located in London);
- Western European — Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, with Canada and the United States participating as appropriate (located in London);
- Southern European — Western Mediterranean — France, Italy, and the United Kingdom, with the United States participating as appropriate (located in London);
- Canadian-United States — Canada and the United States (located in Washington);
- North Atlantic Ocean — Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States (located in Washington).

The Council at its first meeting recognized the importance of making provision for military production and supply and for examining economic and financial factors in the development and implementation of military plans. Accordingly, the Working Group previously established in Washington continued its work. It later recommended the establishment of a Military Production and Supply Board, whose functions should be to examine deficiencies in military supply and production among the Parties and to recommend to the Defence Committee how best these deficiencies could be met by self-help and mutual aid. This body was established by the Defence Committee at its second session which was held in Paris on December 1, 1949. The Board is established in London, but provision is made for close liaison with the Standing Group in Washington.

The Working Group subsequently recommended the establishment of a Defence Finance and Economic Committee consisting of the Finance Ministers of the Parties to the Treaty. This Committee was agreed to and established in London. It reports directly to the Council and makes recommendations on financial and economic considerations affecting defence planning within the North Atlantic area.

The organization already established under the Treaty is intended to be flexible and subject to review at any time, and is not intended to preclude the establishment of other organs or procedures as the need arises. For example, to the end of 1949 no provision had been made for any special organ to implement Article 2. The need for such machinery was, however, pointed out to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his review of Canada's external relations on November 16, 1949.