

Atlantic Treaty Association

SEVENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

THE Atlantic Treaty Association consists of citizens of all the NATO countries, grouped in autonomous national associations or committees, who are united in their wish to maintain and strengthen the Atlantic alliance. The Association is concerned not so much with the military mechanism of the alliance as with the essential purposes for which the North Atlantic Treaty was signed and which are defined in its Preamble. These purposes are: (a) to educate and inform the public concerning the aims and goals of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; (b) to conduct research in the various purposes and activities related to that Organization; (c) to promote the solidarity of the peoples of the North Atlantic area; (d) to develop permanent relations and co-operation between its member organizations. The Secretariat of the Association is now located in Paris. Its chairman is former Ambassador W. Randolph Burgess of the United States of America; General Jean-Etienne Valluy of France (former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Central Europe) is Secretary-General.

The Canadian Atlantic Co-ordinating Committee is the national member organization of the Association for Canada. It is based on two constituent bodies, the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and the United Nations Association in Canada. Both of these organizations devote attention to the Atlantic Community as part of their regular activities, and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs provides the administrative and secretarial resources for the operations of the Committee. In addition, the Committee itself undertakes direct activities in support of the programme of the Atlantic Treaty Association and maintains liaison with the Department of External Affairs regarding the information activities of member governments and of NATO.

The Association held its Seventh Annual Assembly in Athens, Greece, from September 25 to 29, 1961. The member organizations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, Great Britain and the United States of America sent delegations, but Portugal and Luxembourg were unable to do so this year. Canada was represented by an observer from the Canadian Embassy in Athens.

The highlight of the opening session of the Assembly on September 25 was an address by General Lauris Norstad, Supreme Commander Allied Forces, Europe, after an introductory speech by the chairman of the Hellenic Atlantic Treaty Association, Admiral C. Alexandris, who welcomed the delegates.

Address by General Norstad

Speaking of the aims of the alliance, General Norstad reviewed the events that led up to the formation of the Atlantic alliance, the establishment of