

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN PARLIAMENT

## Statements of Government Policy

### North Atlantic Treaty Organization

On November 8 Mr. Alphonse Fournier, acting for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, moved that the House go into committee to approve the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to approve the agreement on the status of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, national representatives and international staff, and to provide for carrying out the obligations, duties and rights of Canada thereunder.

#### Status of Civilian Staffs Abroad

Mr. Jean Lesage, Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, spoke to the motion as follows:

The purpose of this resolution is to make way for the introduction of a bill approving the agreement regarding the immunities and privileges of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, that is for the organization itself, national representatives and international staff. The agreement was signed in Ottawa by all the members of NATO on September 20, 1951. It follows generally the form of agreement which, beginning with the general convention on privileges and immunities of the United Nations in 1946, has been adopted with more or less minor variations to define the privileges and immunities of practically all important international organizations. Certain departures have, however, been made from the precedents in order to meet the particular requirements of NATO.

NATO differs from other international organizations in that it has subsidiary bodies in permanent session in several countries. Other organizations generally only have a permanent seat in the country where they have their headquarters and it has been usual, in addition to the general agreement defining privileges and immunities which all member states are expected to accord, to have a special headquarters agreement between the organization and the member state in whose territory the headquarters are located. An example of this headquarters agreement would be the agreement between the Government of Canada and the United Nations concerning the International Civil Aviation Organization with its headquarters in Montreal.

This headquarters agreement covers the special requirements of the organization in the country where it has its headquarters and, in particular, grants to any national representative stationed permanently in that country a rather more liberal scale of privileges than is given to national representatives under the general agreement. Since NATO has permanent bodies in several countries it has been found convenient to include in the general agreement provisions, mainly concerning national representatives, which are generally found in a headquarters agreement . . . .

Following comments by Mr. Coldwell (CCF, Rosetown-Biggart) and Mr. Fulford (L, Leeds), the motion was agreed to and the House went into committee.

After some brief remarks by Mr. Pouliot (L, Temiscouata), Mr. Lesage continued his statement as follows:

. . . The members of the international staff of the United Nations located in Canada are very few. Practically the only members here are those of the International Civil Aviation Organization with headquarters in Montreal. Occasionally representatives of the International Labour Office are in Canada, and I do not know if there are still representatives of the International Refugee Organization located in this country.

The bill to be founded upon this resolution deals with the privileges and immuni-