

subordinate agencies of the Council had reached the stage where they should be coordinated, and that this could be achieved by a consultation on the high political level, to reconcile the political, economic and military aspects of the problem. This problem is not simply one of providing forces. The European members of the organization made that quite clear to us. It is also the problem of preserving the economic stability of the member countries, so a temporary ministerial committee was set up by the council to solve this fundamental problem. Lest it be thought that this is just another high level piece of international machinery being created for an indefinite time, it was made clear that this committee was set up for the single purpose of recommending a course of action and reconciling, and I quote:

... the requirements of fulfilling a militarily acceptable NATO plan for the defence of Western Europe, and the realistic politico - economic capabilities of the member countries.

That committee is to report at the next meeting in Rome.

So much then for the short term objective. The long term objective of the North Atlantic pact was also given much more serious discussion at this meeting of the Council than it had received at any time previously. It was admitted by all that that is not an objective of prior and immediate importance. Defence must come first. In our preoccupation with anything else, we must never forget that. We did feel, though, that it was important also to give serious examination to the non-military objectives of NATO, especially as some of them have a direct bearing on defence itself. They include the closer association of member countries for the promotion of collective well-being and economic and social stability. It became increasingly clear at the Council meeting that particularly those countries in Europe which were feeling most the economic burden of their defence contributions needed a long term aim for the backing of faith and confidence which is so necessary if this organization is to succeed.

To them the problem is not merely to provide for military defence from an abundance of resources; it is a peacetime struggle for stability and indeed for survival after a period of great difficulty, distress and even destruction. So we thought that this required that attention should be paid to the non-military aspects of the treaty which are described in Article 2 of that treaty; to the building up of the North Atlantic community. One often hears this term "Atlantic community" these days without any clear idea what it means. I readily admit that I am probably one of those most guilty of using it without a definite picture of what path its development may follow. But I believe this lack of precision is the result of the healthy circumstance that this community is growing out of satisfactory and practical solutions to common problems, not from preconceived plans for a grandiose if airy structure. At the Ottawa meeting it was clear that a spirit of community, as I have already stated, was developing on solid foundations; that these foundations should now be strengthened; that they should form the basis for closer consultation on foreign policy matters so that decisions would not be made, or certainly would not be announced by any one member of the group without discussing that problem with the other members of the group.