

A Permanent Secretariat - One very important change decided on at Lisbon was the creation of the post of Secretary-General who is appointed by, and is responsible to, the Council. Generally speaking, he will be responsible for organizing the work of the Council and will head an integrated international secretariat concerned with the civil rather than the military side of NATO (e.g., budgeting problems of the Organization, economic and financial aspects of defence, co-ordination of defence production programs, etc.). The first incumbent is Lord Ismay, a distinguished British soldier with wide administrative and political experience. He will also serve as vice-Chairman of the Council and will preside at its meetings except when meetings of Ministers are called by the Chairman.

The Military Side of NATO

As the North Atlantic Organization is primarily a defensive alliance, first emphasis has necessarily, therefore, been on military preparedness. Regional security, however, to be comprehensive, must provide for co-operation in every sphere where collective action would strengthen the region. Thus, the North Atlantic Treaty called for the achievement of certain non-military as well as military objectives. Clearly, however, a degree of military security was a first aim, which would have to be achieved before the other broader objectives, recognized as less urgent, could be furthered.

On the military side in particular, NATO fell heir to the valuable work which had been done by Western Union in planning the defence of Western Europe. This planning organization was supplemented by others to consider the defence problems in the wider region of the North Atlantic not encompassed by Western Union. Five planning groups were set up, three for Europe, one for the North Atlantic Ocean, and one for Canada--United States. Both Canada and the United States belong to the last two and both were invited to join the European planning groups as observers.

Supreme Commands - The first year of NATO was largely given over to the planners. In December, 1950, the North Atlantic countries decided upon the almost unprecedented step of establishing in peace time actual military command organizations and giving executive powers to the commanders. The first command to be established was that of the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers Europe (SACEUR), it being recognized that Western Europe must be our first line of defence. General Eisenhower was appointed to this command in December, 1950, by a resolution of the North Atlantic Council acting together with the then existing Defence Ministers Committee. This appointment was made after the President of the United States had acceded to a unanimous request that he make General Eisenhower available for this task.

General Eisenhower's command came into being on April 2, 1951, and was established outside Paris where he collected a staff of officers, representing Navy, Army and Air, seconded to him by NATO members having forces under his command. Canada has made available its quota of officers. Subordinate commands for Europe were established during 1951: Northern Europe (Admiral Brind, British); Allied Land Forces Central Europe (Marshal Juin, French); Allied Air Forces, Central Europe (General Norstad, U.S.A.); Flag Officer, Central Europe (Admiral Jaujard, French); Allied Forces, Southern Europe (Admiral Carney, U.S.A.).