

*North Atlantic Treaty*

defence. These two subjects are interrelated; indeed, they hang together. These are complicated problems, and we should not I think get too impatient if final decisions are not reached in regard to them at once.

Another question which faced us at Rome, Mr. Speaker, was that of command in the north Atlantic and indeed command in the Mediterranean. We also discussed at Rome the question of the re-organization of the North Atlantic organization. It is becoming in a sense a rather unwieldy international agency. It has grown quickly. It has grown, as things sometimes do which grow quickly, without that kind of arrangement and planning which we would have desired, and which we would have achieved if we had had more time. So we are giving consideration in the North Atlantic organization now to the streamlining, the making more effective of the whole organization. Also—and this will be of very considerable interest I know to some hon. members—we received at our North Atlantic council meeting a report from the committee of five on non-military co-operation. That was in the nature of an interim report, and not meant to be anything else. Because it is an interim report I do not think I need say much more about it at this time, Mr. Speaker. We are continuing our work on this committee of five, and we will have something more to say about it at the next meeting in Portugal.

Then finally at Rome—and this was not a problem; it was a privilege—we welcomed to our deliberations, not as full members, because the protocol that we are considering today has not been accepted, but as observers for the first time, the representatives of Greece and Turkey. The hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) asked me a few moments ago how we had voted in the security council of the United Nations in the contest between Greece and Byelorussia for election to the United Nations security council. We have not in the past declared publicly how we vote in these matters and, as I said a few moments ago, no useful purpose would be served if I made a public declaration now; but I will assure him and the house that we welcomed very much the membership of Greece in the security council of the United Nations, just as we welcomed the representatives of Greece and Turkey to our North Atlantic council meeting in Rome as observers.

These big questions which I have mentioned and which are vital for peace and security in Europe were not decided at Rome. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom said not long ago that

the Rome meeting was in a sense an intermediate meeting between the Ottawa meeting and the next meeting in Portugal. But it has become increasingly clear that we cannot postpone decisions on these matters indefinitely and we are expecting decisions to be taken at the next meeting.

**Mr. Graydon:** They cannot all be intermediate meetings.

**Mr. Pearson:** I read not long ago in the *New York Times* an article by one of its European correspondents, Mr. Sulzberger, which very well summarizes I think the Rome meeting and the problems that faced us in the North Atlantic organization subsequent to that meeting. Mr. Sulzberger wrote at that time:

NATO undoubtedly became aware at this Rome meeting that its development is at a very critical stage. However, the ministers proved that they could debate one another's views in what is becoming a small and select parliament—

I may say in parentheses, it was not so small at Rome. One of our difficulties in the North Atlantic council is the number of people who now attend the meetings. We had between 300 and 400 at one of the meetings in Rome, and it is very difficult to conduct intimate informal discussions with that number of people in the room. Mr. Sulzberger goes on:

—and still remain friends and allies. They also recognized that there is value in the habit of getting together.

And that value is emphasized more and more the oftener we meet together. He went on:

The organization must surely have recognized that it is now in the period where it will suffer its greatest growing pains. Looking back, it can recognize the considerable achievement of the past year, in which an army with its allied headquarters has been consolidated in Europe. But looking forward, it is becoming increasingly aware of long, difficult and expensive years looming ahead for an indefinite time.

The price of liberty is rather high and every one of the twelve nations (plus Greek and Turkish observers) was surely even more aware of that truism when the Rome meeting was over. This awareness is a necessity as the pact develops toward that condition of strength which, it is hoped, will finally permit the negotiation of a more real peace than exists today.

As one further step toward that goal of the negotiation of a real peace, we are today discussing a protocol which provides for membership in our North Atlantic Treaty Organization of Greece and Turkey. I said something about this matter in the house on October 22, and I do not wish to repeat what I said then. Hon. members will recall that at our North Atlantic council meeting in Ottawa in September it was decided unanimously to take the steps which would be