

II

Following a report by the Secretary-General on the work and activities of the Organization in the last eight months, the Council discussed future defence planning of NATO. It considered the Annual Review Report for 1955 and approved force goals for 1956, 1957, and 1958. The Council welcomed the German Federal Republic's participation for the first time in the NATO Annual Review. The Council adopted procedures *designed to give new impulse and direction* to the future defence planning of the Alliance and to ensure even closer co-operation in this field. The Council expressed the firm determination of all member governments to see the Atlantic forces equipped with the most modern weapons. The Council noted with satisfaction that substantial progress could be achieved in this respect as a result of the valuable assistance of the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Council devoted major attention to *improving the arrangements for air defence and warning in Europe*. It accepted recommendations for the re-organization and closer co-ordination of the air defence in NATO European countries, so as to integrate further NATO activities in this vital field. The Council also received a report on a *new type* of communications system for air defence and warning. The United States offered to finance a pilot project for this new system.

III

The Council recognized that recent developments in the international situation made it more necessary than ever to have closer co-operation between the members of the Alliance as envisaged in *Article 2 of the Treaty*. They decided to instruct the Permanent Council to examine and implement all measures conducive to this end.

IV

In concluding its work, the Council declared that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization remains the essential foundation of the security of the *fifteen* associated nations. Such association is in direct contrast to the obsolete system under which isolated nations are in danger of being subjugated, one by one, by despotic groups such as the Soviet bloc.

Palais de Chaillot,

Paris, XVI^e.

16th December, 1955.

STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR.

L. B. PEARSON, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1955.

The recent NATO meeting gave a straight answer to the Soviet Union's recent efforts to weaken our alliance. Besides approving more effective defence plans, the Paris meeting demonstrated four things in particular: (1) the need for strength and vigilance in defence and for flexibility and unity in policy; (2) the need for continuous and frank political discussion in NATO to ensure this unity; (3) the importance of the problem of German reunification and (4) the welcome growth in NATO consultation on economic and other non-military questions.