

At Washington in October the defence committee approved a plan for the defence of the five regions of NATO. These are the western European, northern European, southern European, north Atlantic ocean and Canada-United States regions.

The defence plan for the first time set out particulars of the requirements for defence; it showed to what extent those requirements could be met; it also showed the allocations of forces that might be contributed by each of the member nations.

At that meeting agreement was not reached as to the participation of western Germany and this question as well as the creation of the integrated force and the appointment of a supreme commander which were considered to be in part dependent upon it were left to be decided by the defence committee when it reconvened.

Meanwhile, at the request of the defence committee, the rearmament of western Germany was considered by the deputies of the council and the military committee of chiefs of staff at their meeting in London.

These London meetings resulted in agreement, which was approved by the defence committee at a meeting held in Brussels on Monday, December 18. This was followed by a joint meeting of the defence committee and council, and the next day by a meeting of the council. It was a privilege to attend these meetings in a dual capacity, both as Minister of Defence and as representing my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson).

At the Brussels meeting Canada again raised proposals for streamlining the organization of NATO. The defence production board was set up with more definite terms of reference to replace the military supply and production board and several other committees.

The terms of reference of the standing group were clarified. There was also established a committee of military representatives of the chiefs of staff of all twelve nations to permit continuous consultation between the standing group and representatives of the chiefs of staff of all the NATO countries.

Canada's remaining proposal that the three ministerial committees be consolidated into a single council, in which the appropriate ministers will represent their governments, is being actively considered.

When criticism is expressed of the organization of NATO it should be remembered that the first meetings to organize the twelve countries for joint defence took place just fifteen months ago.

The accomplishments of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to date have been substantial:

(1) The twelve nations have agreed to act together in their common defence; (2) They have set up the organization necessary to combine their common efforts; (3) They have set up an integrated force; (4) They have appointed a supreme commander, who has already visited all the twelve countries, as well as Western Germany. Our meeting here a week ago was