

At these London meetings, which began on September 28, we were able to work out the broad lines of an agreement for associating the Federal Republic of Germany with the Western community on a basis of equality, the only basis of course which was possible, and to further the aims of Western defence and European unity within the North Atlantic alliance.

Moreover, it was recognized that these historic decisions together formed part of one general settlement which was directly or indirectly of concern to all the members of NATO. It was therefore agreed that the final act of the London conference, which outlined the main understandings reached, should be put into the form of more detailed agreements which would be submitted later, as appropriate, either to the four powers, the seven Brussels powers, or to the whole NATO council. That was done, and we met in Paris on October 22. All the resulting agreements were signed the next day, October 23.

I approach this result in no defensive, defeatist or apologetic manner. I think it was a great achievement. I can say that with more conviction because it was an achievement which others had far more to do with bringing about than we did. I think it was a great achievement, all the greater in view of the price we would have had to pay for the failure to bring it about, a failure which seemed so close only a few weeks before.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize for the length of time I am taking, but I believe the House would expect me to say a few words about the actual terms of the agreements, their general significance and also their particular relation to the question of German rearmament which is so much in our minds, as well as their significance to Canada itself.

These Paris agreements can be divided, for purposes of consideration, into four parts. There are the four-power agreements signed by the three occupying powers and the West German Government, which provide for restoration of sovereignty to the German Federal Republic and for the present and future stationing of foreign forces on the soil of that republic. Then there are a series of seven-power agreements which provide for the reconstitution of the Brussels Treaty Organization to include two new members, namely Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany, into a new organization which we now call Western European Union. Then finally there are certain NATO agreements which include the protocol now before the House and certain resolutions designed to strengthen the NATO defence structure.