

### North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Under Article 9 of the Treaty the Council on which each Party is represented was established "to consider matters concerning the implementation of the Treaty" and was empowered to set up such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary. When the Treaty was signed in Washington a Working Group, composed of representatives in Washington of all Parties, was set up to report on the necessary organization under the Treaty to the first meeting of the Council. This report was considered at the first meeting on September 17 when the broad outlines of the organization of the Treaty were agreed to.

The supreme governing body is the Council, which consists of the Foreign Ministers of all the Parties, although, should they be unable to attend any meeting, their places may be taken by designated diplomatic representatives. In order to enable the Council to meet promptly at any time, the diplomatic representatives in Washington of the Parties are to be empowered to act as their Government's representatives whenever necessary. The Council is to meet annually and at such other times as may be deemed necessary. Extraordinary sessions under Articles 4 and 5 of the Treaty may be called at any time at the request of any of the Parties. The Chairmanship of the Council is held in turn in alphabetical order beginning with the United States.

At the first meeting of the Council the essential military organization was agreed to. The senior defence body is the Defence Committee consisting of the Defence Ministers of the Parties. It is charged with recommending measures for the implementation of Articles 3 and 5 of the Treaty. At the first meeting on October 5 in Washington the Defence Committee, in accordance with a directive from the Council, established the Military Committee on which the Chiefs of Staff of all the Parties (except Iceland, which has no such organization and declined representation) are represented.

A Standing Group of the Military Committee, consisting of representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, and France, was also established and given the responsibility of co-ordinating and integrating the defence plans originating in the Regional Planning Groups described below. It was also provided that before the Standing Group made recommendations regarding the use of the forces, facilities, or resources of a Party not represented on the Standing Group, that Party should have the right to participate in the work of the Standing Group in formulating such recommendations. It is also provided that the Standing Group should organize its work so as to function continuously and that its site should be located in Washington. In order to maintain close contact with the Standing Group a Party