

NATO Ministerial Meeting, 1960

THE annual meeting of the foreign, defence and finance ministers of the fifteen member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization took place in Paris from December 16 to 18. Canada was represented by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green; the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Douglas Harkness; Canada's Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council, Mr. Jules Leger; the Deputy Under-Secretary for External Affairs, Mr. M. Cadieux; the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff, Air Marshal F. R. Miller; and officials from the Departments of External Affairs, Finance, National Defence and Defence Production.

As the traditional occasion for the annual stocktaking of the political, economic and defensive strength of the alliance, the meeting dealt with a wide range of problems. A convenient summary of the general character and scope of the discussions is contained in the communiqué issued at the conclusion of the meeting, the text of which follows:

Final Communiqué

The regular ministerial session of the North Atlantic Council was held in Paris from December 16 to 18, 1960.

2. The Ministers engaged in an extensive review of the international situation — political, military and economic. In pursuance of decisions previously taken they also considered the question of long-term planning on the basis of a progress report from the Secretary-General and suggestions put forward by Governments

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3. The Council reaffirmed the solidarity of the alliance and their dedication to the principle of the settlement of all disputes by peaceful means, without recourse to the use of force or threats. They declared their determination to work for a lasting improvement in international relations, in which freedom, national independence and law would be respected. This would be true peaceful coexistence free from all idea of world domination.

4. The Council deplored the lack of progress during the past year on disarmament, resulting from the Communist states' withdrawal from the Ten-Power Conference before even examining the Western proposals. The Council reaffirmed their support for the principles expressed in those proposals as a basis for attaining their common objective of general and complete disarmament by stages under effective international control. They expressed their hope for the early resumption of negotiations.