

work which is directed towards the establishment of what is now being called the European Defence Community. Parallel with this development are the negotiations with the Federal Republic of Germany to replace the Occupational Statute with a contractual arrangement more in keeping with the new role which Germany would be called upon to play in Western Europe. The Occupying Powers reported on the considerable progress of these negotiations which took place in Paris between the German Chancellor and the U.S., U.K. and French Foreign Ministers.

The Council recognized the great importance of the satisfactory solution of these matters because of their relation to North Atlantic planning and adopted a resolution expressing the hope that the Paris Conference on the European Defence Community would conclude its activities at the earliest possible moment so that a definitive report could be made to the Council at its next meeting. It was clear that there must be a satisfactory link between the European Defence Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and that the obligations under the two must be satisfactorily correlated. Therefore, the resolution included a recommendation that close liaison should be maintained between NATO agencies and the Paris conference.

Mr. Pearson's Report

Mr. Pearson, as Chairman of the Committee of Five established at Ottawa to study means of furthering the non-military objectives of the Treaty outlined in Article 2, made a report on the work of the Committee. This report stressed the importance of developing, as much as possible, the habit of consultation on political matters of common concern. A feeling has been evident in some quarters that efforts should be made to give the smaller nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization more of a voice in North Atlantic policy and it can be inferred, from the fact that all members of the Committee are from the smaller countries in the Council, that the desirability of achieving this closer and more effective consultation will not be forgotten. Throughout its report the Committee stressed the desirability of achieving progress in the development of the North Atlantic community by the practical solution of concrete problems. One of the most acute of these is the employment situation due to a surplus of labour in some countries and the shortage of labour in others. The Council, therefore, directed that particular consideration be given to facilitating the movement of labour from countries with excess manpower to others where it could be effectively utilized. This and other proposals related to economic, social and cultural matters will be given further study by the Committee, which is to continue in existence. In carrying out its work, the Committee is to co-ordinate its activities with those of other international organizations to avoid duplication as far as possible.

During the Rome session, the delegates were acutely conscious of the tragedy which had befallen Italy in the serious floods then devastating the Po Valley. North Atlantic countries took quick action through their national governments and through international organizations such as the Red Cross to send assistance in the form of food, blankets, clothing and medical supplies to the flood area. This spontaneous action by member governments to bring aid to the many sufferers from this disaster, was an example of the bond of sympathy which gives meaning and substance to the concept of a North Atlantic community.

It was announced at the end of the meeting that the next session of the Council would be held at Lisbon on February 2. Mr. Pearson, as the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, was in the Chair for the first time at Rome and his term of office as Council President will continue until the autumn of 1952. At the end of the Rome meeting, General Foulkes, the Chairman of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff Committee, took over as Chairman of the Military Committee.