

PROPOSED NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

The Foreign Ministers of the Five Signatory Powers of the Brussels Pact met in Paris on October 25 and October 26, 1948 and at the conclusion of their meeting issued the following statement:

The Foreign Ministers of the Five Signatory Powers of the Brussels Treaty met in Paris on October 25 and October 26, 1948, for the third regular session of the Consultative Council. After examining the decisions taken by the five Defence Ministers at their meeting on September 27-28, 1948, including the setting up of the land, sea and air command organization of Western Union, the Council gave its approval to the principles governing the defence policy of the Five Powers which are based on the Brussels Treaty and on the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council also made a preliminary study of the question of North Atlantic security and the conversations on this subject which took place in Washington during the summer. This examination resulted in complete agreement in the Council on the principle of a defensive pact for the North Atlantic and on the next steps to be taken in this direction. The Council approved the suggestions made by the five Finance Ministers on October 17, 1948. In order to carry out these suggestions as rapidly as possible, the Council decided to set up a Committee of Experts to study the financial and economic questions raised by the organization of the defence of Western Europe. The Council next took note of the progress accomplished in the social and cultural fields and approved the reports submitted to it.

As regards the question of European unity, the Council decided to set up a Committee of Representatives chosen by the Governments of the Five Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Brussels, consisting of five French, five United Kingdom, three Belgian, three Netherlands and two Luxembourg members. The object of this Committee, which will meet in Paris, will be to consider and to report to Governments on the steps to be taken towards securing a greater measure of unity between European countries. To this end the Committee will take into consideration all suggestions which have been or may be put forward by Governments or by private organizations.

In this connection it will examine the Franco-Belgian suggestion for the convening of a European Assembly and the British suggestion relating to the establishment of a European Council appointed by and responsible to Governments for the purpose of dealing with matters of common concern. This committee will draw up a report for submission to the Consultative Council at its next meeting. Finally the Foreign Ministers proceeded to a full exchange of views on various international problems certain of which are now being considered in the United Nations Assembly and the Security Council.

Mr. Pearson's Statement

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, made the following statement at his regular weekly press conference on October 28:

"The Canadian Government has noted with great interest the statement on October 26 in Paris of the Consultative Council established by the Brussels Treaty made up of the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom that they are in complete agreement on the principle of a defensive pact for the North Atlantic and on the next steps to be taken in this direction.