

In this situation so full of danger which followed the French rejection of the projected European Defence Community immediate remedial action was required to weld together the cracks which were appearing in the north Atlantic structure and to continue the progress toward European unity which had been interrupted. It was more important, we felt at that time, to look ahead than to indulge in recriminations as to who was responsible for the set-back. It was in that spirit that we took part in the developments of that time.

The initiative to restore the situation came from the United Kingdom, whose earlier refusal to join the European Defence Community had heightened French distaste for that treaty. Therefore I am sure it was with a profound feeling of admiration and relief that all of us in Canada followed the skilful and untiring effort of the United Kingdom foreign secretary, Sir Anthony Eden, as with the strong backing of the United States secretary of state he gathered support in the main European capitals for a new approach to the problems arising from the failure of EDC.

As we over here watched those developments, while we were happy over the initiative taken in London, we were also concerned that any arrangement to replace the European Defence Community should not impair the strength and unity of NATO as the organization primarily responsible for defence planning and for co-operation in the non-military field, we desired that progress toward European unity should be made within the larger framework of the Atlantic community. We wanted all these things to be done within the framework of our North Atlantic Organization to the greatest extent possible. For this reason we felt, and indeed we suggested, that the new proposals to replace EDC should be submitted initially to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council for consideration. However, that idea did not command general support, and it became clear that the majority of the countries most directly concerned were in favour of the United Kingdom proposal for a conference in London of the countries signatory to the proposed EDC, along with the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

We were glad to support that procedure and to accept an invitation to attend the London conference as a country with a direct and important stake in any arrangement to take the place of EDC, and as a member of NATO with sizeable forces on the European continent itself. As a participant in this conference we endeavoured with some success to stress the importance to NATO of the solutions which were discussed in London, and to ensure as far as we could that these problems should be discussed and solved within the NATO concept.