

of the North Atlantic Treaty. If North American forces were to be sent to Europe, it would clearly have to be on the understanding that all European members of NATO and the West Germans, contributed to the common defence effort. While the importance of German participation in the defence of the West was immediately recognized by all, the means by which it could be accomplished effectively and with a minimum of risk proved a very difficult question.

The United States plan for German participation directly in an Atlantic force in Western Europe (to be called an "integrated force") was opposed by the French authorities who believed German participation could only be accepted within the framework of European political institutions which could administer and control a European army under the command of the Supreme Commander of the integrated force. In view of the far-reaching nature of both proposals, agreement had to be deferred until further discussions had taken place in the Military Committee, on the military aspect of the problem, and in the Council of Deputies, on political aspects.

Working with all the urgency demanded by the situation in the Far East, the Deputies and the Military Committee quickly hammered out a compromise. This compromise, known as the "Spofford Plan" after the Chairman of the Deputies, was approved by the North Atlantic Council and Defence Committee meeting in Brussels on December 18 and 19. The Council charged the Occupying Powers with the task of negotiating with the West German Government on the participation of Germans in an integrated force.

Having agreed on the German problem, the Council established the integrated force for the defence of Western Europe and appointed General Eisenhower as the Supreme Commander. The question of whether or not a European Army would be formed within the integrated force was left open for decision by the European countries concerned at a conference to be called in the new year in Paris.

While discussion of German participation was proceeding in the political and military bodies, the economic, financial and production bodies were attempting to work out some means of sharing the defence burden, providing the defence production programmes of all countries with the essential supplies of raw materials, arranging in order of priority the production requirements needed to meet the large gap between available manpower and available weapons, and seeing where these weapons could most quickly and efficiently be made.

All these activities led to modifications in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The most significant change has been the establishment of a continuing body of Deputies to Members of the Council who can give continuous direction and correlation to the many aspects of the developing and complex task of building up the defences of the Atlantic