

to the location of the Council, that we shall be serving notice to France of our high regard for her and of the part which we believe she can continue to play in the Western community and in the alliance.

What happens to French forces in Germany, the two divisions there, I do not know. It could be that the agreement, or the failure to agree, on a desired formula for the continuation of the forces of France in Germany could have a very important bearing on the question as to where the Council is to be located. But we shall have to wait until some of these matters are decided before the decision on that is made.

I should like to say this: there was a story yesterday... about a report that France was withdrawing not only its military but its political support from the NATO organization. I can say that the story seems to be wholly unfounded, and likewise there is no basis for suggesting that the Government of France proposes to ask that the Council be not maintained in Paris. The latest information I have is that the story to that effect yesterday, and about which there was also a question, has no basis in fact.

This is a very important meeting for the future integrity of the Organization, and it has a very definite bearing on the improvement of international relations in the next period.

Mr. Ben Malkin: Sir, has General de Gaulle consulted with the NATO alliance about what he is going to talk about in Moscow immediately after the Brussels meeting?

Mr. Martin: The opportunity will be afforded to the French Foreign Minister of indicating the talks that he has had in Roumania and, more recently, in Poland. I am sure that, following NATO practice, he will make a report of conversations that do have a very great interest to all NATO members. And I should hope that he would find it desirable to give us some indication of the objectives of the important visit which General de Gaulle will be making to Moscow.

Mr. Peter Stursberg: Is Brussels likely to be the new location for SHAPE?

Mr. Martin: I should think that is a fairly good guess, but there is no decision. There have been consultations among the member states. Directly, I have had some discussions here in Ottawa and our Ambassador in NATO has, but we have a number of matters to decide before that question can be finalized. But I believe there will be a decision as to the location of SHAPE itself.

Mr. Paul Akehurst: Where does Canada think that SHAPE should be located, sir?

Mr. Martin: Well, if the Belgian Government is prepared to have SHAPE located there, this would be agreeable to Canada.