

all the papers in Canada, in the United States, in France and in England. The whole story was there, and yet there were no adequate consultations in NATO.

When I went to Paris in October I had an opportunity to speak to the NATO Council and emphasized on behalf of Canada that we thought there would have to be a far better system of consultation. I made the same submissions to President de Gaulle, to Prime Minister Debré and to Mr. Couve de Murville, the Foreign Minister of France, also to Prime Minister Macmillan and Mr. Seiwyn Lloyd, and they all agreed. The Americans agreed at Camp David a few weeks later. Everybody was perfectly willing to consult, but they still were not consulting.

The smaller nations, of course, agreed with us that there was great need to get a somewhat better system.

One direct result was that, when the Western summit meeting was held in Paris in December, there were consultations in the NATO Council before that was held, and there were also consultations after. The foreign ministers of the four came together and reported to the NATO Council. The report was not treated in a perfunctory way. It had quite a going over at that meeting of the Council which followed the meeting of the four.

The same plan is to be followed this year. There is to be a meeting of the heads of government of the four Western powers, I think in April, but in any event there are to be consultations with the NATO Council at each stage.

French Problems

France, of course, has a special problem in Algeria. After the events of the last 10 days or two weeks, I am sure the Canadian people will have a far clearer realization of the very difficult problems France has been facing and still faces in Algeria. She has an outstanding Foreign Minister in Mr. Couve de Murville. He speaks with great logic and great friendliness. He is very well liked in the NATO Council. I suggest that Canada must at all times have the deepest understanding for France and her problems. She, of course, is one of our mother countries, and one feels that when he goes to her shores. I am of Anglo-Saxon descent, and yet when I went to Paris, in fact the minute I stepped off the plane, I felt that I was at home with members of the family. We were treated in just that way on both occasions that I had the privilege of visiting France. I repeat, so far as NATO is concerned, that in my judgement there certainly is no sign of any impending break-up. I hope there will be no more talk in Canada about possible break-up.

I should like to explain in a word or two the position of NATO in relation to European trade problems. This is not my field, of course; it comes under the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Finance. I had thought that NATO would be a forum for settling the difficulties about European trade, but when you remember that six of the NATO countries are in the Common Market — they are the Inner Six — and that only four of the European Free Trade Area, known as the Outer Seven, are in NATO, and that there are two from North America, Canada and the United States, and three, Greece, Turkey and