

Terms of the Treaty

Both in the Treaty's preamble and in Article I, the signatories emphasized their support for the United Nations and for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the UN Charter. Subsequent articles deal with collective defence and provide for consultation "whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the parties is threatened". Participation in this collective defence effort does not, however, prejudice the freedom of decision of member countries or involve an automatic commitment as to the means of providing mutual support. Article 5 states that each member should take "such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed forces to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area".

The Honourable Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Lester Pearson, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Arnold Heeney, represented Canada at the eleventh session of the NATO Council in Paris.

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