

self-denying ordinance of the German Federal Republic on the manufacture of atomic, biological, and chemical weapons and some heavy armaments.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs represented Canada at the two Nine-Power meetings, as well as at the North Atlantic Council. Canada's participation was based on its membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and on its position as a country with sizable forces stationed in the Federal Republic and a direct stake in Western European defence. The Canadian delegation was active in the effort to find a solution acceptable to the European countries most directly concerned. One of its main aims was to ensure that NATO was maintained and strengthened as the chief organ of Western collective defence, and that provision was made for the new Western European Union to work closely with NATO.

None of the Paris agreements will come into effect until each has been ratified by all its signatories. The Canadian Government intends at the next session of Parliament to seek approval for ratification of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty.¹

2. Western and Northern Europe

Events in this area of particular interest to Canada centred on the efforts of the main Western European governments to bring into being a European Defence Community or alternative arrangements to accomplish the main aims of EDC. An outline of developments following the Brussels meeting is contained in the section on "Association of the Federal Republic of Germany with the West".

Canada followed with interest the discussions of European problems held within the Council of Europe, which, as an association of thirteen European states, is in a sense a Western European parliament. Canadian observers, as in the past, attended sessions of the Consultative Assembly of the Council, which debated many current problems of importance, including European unity and arrangements for associating the German Federal Republic with the West. Through its missions in Scandinavia, Canada also noted with interest discussions at the second annual meeting of the Nordic Council, which this year was chiefly concerned with economic problems and matters connected with common markets, customs regulations, and scientific research.

Important steps were taken by France during the year in the North African Protectorates of Morocco and Tunisia. Subsequent to the formation of a government composed of Tunisians in July, negotiations were begun between France and Tunisia concerning the transfer of internal authority from the French Resident General to the Tunisian Government. In Morocco reforms intended to facilitate political, administrative, and social evolution were announced on September 5.

In economic matters, Canada followed closely, and in some cases played an active part in, developments in the Organization for European Economic Co-operation, of which Canada is an associate member. During the year attention was devoted in the Organization to the desirability of moving towards a freer system of trade and payments as a means of

¹Parliament approved Jan. 26 and 27, 1955.