

Adequacy of Nato Machinery

It is to the credit of its authors that the Treaty is as adequate to the problems we face today as it was ten years ago. It is up to us to use it. Of late we have had indications that some members of the Alliance are considering the possibility of setting up special machinery for political consultation on a regional basis outside the NATO framework. We welcome exchanges generally and continue to use our own bilateral and multilateral contacts with other countries. It has always seemed to us undesirable, however, that such consultations should take the place of or frustrate political consultation within the Council. In particular, we would view with concern any development which might tend to produce pre-fixed positions by a number of member countries on problems of interest to the Alliance as a whole. We hope that this view is generally shared and that no decision will be taken the results of which would be to weaken the effectiveness of consultation within NATO.

During the next few weeks the Council will move to its new headquarters. The process of consultation will surely be intensified by the mere presence under one roof of all member delegations and of the Secretary-General and his staff. Indeed it would be quite normal in these new surroundings for some permanent delegations to meet informally and discuss problems of more immediate concern to their countries. The Council on the other hand could remain in more or less permanent session and be available at the call of the chair at a few minutes' notice. It seems to us therefore that, given goodwill on all sides, the Council could fulfill with a minimum of complications most if not all of the responsibilities which the new international situation may call for. As far as Canada is concerned I can assure you that we will continue to co-operate fully and whole-heartedly. The Canadian Government strongly endorses what President Eisenhower said here in this Council last month about no member nation having to take a second place in our organization. NATO is and must remain animated by a spirit of equality. In practical terms, this surely means that NATO policies should continue to be determined by all NATO members.

Economic Co-operation

Today the position of the North Atlantic Alliance as a whole is one of unprecedented economic strength; and almost without exception our individual countries are economically more prosperous than ever before. This economic growth and strength should serve as convincing evidence as to the efficacy of our own economic systems. Now that the economic scene has changed somewhat we should satisfy ourselves that our actions and programmes are still wholly appropriate to present circumstances..

We all share the conviction made explicit in Article II of our Treaty that conflicts in our international economic policies should be eliminated and hence that the possibility of an economic