

the foreign minister that has been in office in that portfolio longest, will preside on Monday over the meeting of the fourteen. That is not a NATO meeting. That is a meeting of practically all of the NATO countries. I will preside as President at the meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, which is a formal NATO meeting at which France will be present.

DAVE McINTOSH: Sir, you said in the beginning that improvement in East-West relationships should be done in consultation rather than alone.

HON. PAUL MARTIN: Essentially in consultation.

DAVE McINTOSH: Does this imply a criticism of General de Gaulle?

HON. PAUL MARTIN; It is a fact that we believe that the strength of any alliance depends on the effectiveness of the consultative arrangement, and, while any head of government has the right, and indeed all of them at some time or other have exercised the right, of going to other capitals, including the Soviet Union, we would hope that whatever positions are taken would be positions that were not inconsistent with the general interests of NATO itself.

And I would hope that one of the conclusions of our discussions on Tuesday and Wednesday, prior to the visit of General de Gaulle, would be that we could agree on a formulation which represents the collective position of all of the NATO countries in our efforts to improve East-West relations.

TONY WESSELL: In your statement, Mr. Martin,