



—NATIS

NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING

A Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council was held in Paris in December 1955. The Canadian delegation included the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, centre, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. R. O. Campney, right, and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Walter Harris. Speaking to Mr. Pearson is Lord Ismay, the Secretary-General of NATO.

There was a general awareness that the Soviet leaders were exploiting in their current diplomatic offensive all situations that could give rise to difficulties for the members of NATO in an attempt to break up the unity of the Alliance. There was unanimous agreement that greater unity is the only possible answer to these tactics. The exchange of views on the international situation gave further evidence that NATO is becoming increasingly important as a forum in which members hear each others views and, where possible, try to achieve an agreed approach to outstanding international issues.

Implementation of Article 2

That the Council is developing into something more than a purely military alliance was also stressed by the discussion at the Ministerial meeting of the need for extending consultation within NATO to the economic, information and social fields. As noted in the final communiqué, the Ministers decided that the Council in permanent session should "examine and implement" all measures conducive to closer co-operation between members as envisaged in Article 2; the discussion did not, however, reveal any desire to establish new machinery for this purpose.

The consensus was that the meeting was a successful one. The political discussions, in particular, were very useful and were conducted in a frank and informal manner. The communiqué was intended to make clear to public