



# Statements and Speeches

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## NATO'S TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, A YEAR OF REVITALIZATION

An Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, to the Atlantic Treaty Association, Ottawa, September 9, 1974.

I am particularly pleased that the Atlantic Treaty Association accepted the invitation of the Atlantic Council of Canada to meet in Ottawa in this the twenty-fifth anniversary year of the Alliance itself. I appreciate the opportunity this has given me, after having only recently been named Secretary of State for External Affairs, to comment on the Atlantic Alliance, which provides a framework for co-operation between Canada, Europe and the United States in the common security of our territories. As I am sure you are all aware, but three months ago the foreign ministers of the NATO nations met here in Ottawa and issued a document attesting to the continuing worth and vigour of the Alliance -- I am speaking, of course, of the "Ottawa Declaration". The signing of this singularly important document demonstrated the truly dynamic nature of our Alliance.

Looking back over the past 25 years, I am struck by the way in which NATO has maintained our common security through varied and changing circumstances. Despite the awesome technological developments in weapons of destruction, and especially nuclear weapons, and despite numerous challenges to our political ways of life, NATO has made and continues to make a fundamental contribution to the security of its members. With this increased stability came a period of relative peace and economic prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. This is the tangible achievement of NATO's collective approach to security.

Twenty-five years ago the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington, giving birth to the Atlantic Alliance -- a unique association of 15 countries designed primarily to ensure the preservation of peace and the security of its members through a collective approach to defence. Faced with a threat to their security while Europe was still recovering from the ravages of the Second World War, the Western countries resolved to group themselves into an alliance that would give substance to a collective resolve to resist aggression. But can any truly viable alliance among such diverse nations as ours be forged from the mere will to resist aggression? It is doubtful to me, as I am sure it is to all of you, that a mere grouping of tanks, planes

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