

but in the result, such suggestions seem to have been a little premature. This first meeting of NATO parliamentarians perhaps fulfilled its most useful purpose in providing an opportunity for personal contacts and the exchange of ideas among representative groups of parliamentarians from all the NATO countries. While it was obvious that most of those attending the meeting had given a good deal of thought to the major questions facing the Alliance, it was probably true that many of them had done so within the framework of their own national interests and attitudes. The meeting thus provided an opportunity for parliamentarians from the various countries to obtain for the first time a direct impression through personal contact of the points of view on NATO problems which are held in other Member countries. As a result, their consideration of such questions in the coming months can profit from the broader perspective which this meeting has helped to reveal.

For the reasons which have been mentioned, it would certainly be untrue to say that the only accomplishments of this first meeting were in matters of organization. Nevertheless, the majority of those attending were unwilling to run the risk of proceeding too hastily, and they were therefore content for the present to confine their decisions to the organizational field. The meeting in itself constituted an important new development for NATO, and it would be rash at this early stage to predict the ultimate results of this constructive experiment. Yet this first meeting was undoubtedly a success, and there can be little doubt that the contacts established and the increased understanding of different points of view held by parliamentarians from the various countries will bear fruit in future years.

RESOLUTION ON FUTURE MEETINGS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM NATO COUNTRIES

THIS MEETING OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM NATO COUNTRIES:

Recalling that the aim of the North Atlantic Treaty is both to ensure the defence of member countries and to contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of the peoples united within the framework of the Atlantic community;

Considering that achievement of the latter aim would be facilitated by closer relations between the members of the representative assemblies of the different countries and considering that this is particularly desirable in the case of the legislative branches of the member states who have by solemn treaty pledged themselves to the mutual defence and welfare of their respective peoples through the far-reaching initiative in international relations that is NATO;

Believing that these discussions between members and the NATO authorities and between members themselves have already been of great value;

Invites the Speakers of the various Parliaments concerned, according to the procedure which they think appropriate, to send delegations to a similar meeting each year;

Expresses the wish that the Governments of the countries here represented facilitate through the NATO Council further meetings;

Considers further that before we separate a Continuing Committee should be selected composed of the present officers and other members of the Steering Committee, fifteen in number, to include one from each NATO nation and with the right of substitution to make arrangements for the next meeting."