

Washington Conference of NATO Parliamentarians

THE FIFTH Annual Conference of the NATO Parliamentarians met from November 16-20, 1959, in Washington, where the North Atlantic Treaty was signed 10 years ago. This was the first time the Conference had taken place away from Paris, and the first opportunity for the NATO Parliamentarians as a group to meet in North America. Coming soon after the Atlantic Congress of distinguished citizens held in London during June (see "External Affairs", October 1959), the conference provided an opportunity to follow up the principal resolutions of the Congress ("External Affairs", October 1959) and to mark the close of the celebrations planned by the NATO Parliamentarians to commemorate the tenth year of NATO's existence.

As on previous occasions, the conference heard a number of speeches by eminent personalities and debated both in committee and plenary draft reports and resolutions prepared before the conference by the rapporteurs of the various committees on all aspects of NATO affairs — political, economic, military, scientific and cultural.

The Canadian Delegation to the Conference was led by Mr. H. F. Jones, M.P., and consisted of 17 members of the Senate and the House of Commons. Prior to the conference, three members of the Delegation participated in a tour of United States defence establishments, including NORAD, arranged by the United States authorities.

Speakers

During the conference, a number of distinguished speakers addressed the conference. On this occasion the speakers included: Mr. Christian Herter, U.S. Secretary of State; Mr. Dean Acheson, who was U.S. Secretary of State at the time of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty; Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak, Secretary-General of NATO; and Professor W. Hallstein, Chairman of the Common Market Commission of the European Economic Community, and M. René Sergent, Secretary-General of OEEC. The Conference was also addressed by General T. D. White, Chief of Staff, USAF; Admiral J. Wright, SACLANT; and General Kutter, General Commanding the North American Air Defence Command.

Mr. Herter stressed the continuing importance of NATO and pledged continuing U.S. support. He drew attention to the recovery of Europe and the need for this to be taken into account in trade policies, aid programmes and defence. As regards the recent Khrushchov visit to the U.S., Mr. Herter saw a greater willingness on the part of the Soviet Union to discuss current problems, but as yet no discernible changes in the Soviet position on them, including Berlin.