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CANADA AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY:
AN ECONOMIC VIEW

A paper presented by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Finance, Mr. K.W. Taylor, to the Royal Society of Canada-Section II- at the Quebec Meetings, June 3, 1952.

...The community of the North Atlantic is both quite old and quite new. Its origins can be dated back to Christopher Columbus and John Cabot, or at least to 1776. On the other hand it can date from April 4, 1949. It is both three years and three centuries old. Its beginnings can be found in the great transformations of the first Elizabethan age which shifted the centre of gravity of European power from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic sea-board; yet a later generation may identify the period of its birth with the opening of a second Elizabethan era. These alternative views depend upon whether we regard the North Atlantic community as a basic fact of geography, politics and economics, or whether we think of it in terms of conscious organization.

The boundaries of our community are similarly imprecise. The area covered by the North Atlantic Treaty is, of course, clearly defined. In its first stage it included twelve nations, all of which, except Italy, face on the North Atlantic, and it embraced all their territories in Europe and North America, including areas in Europe under occupation by their forces together with all their Atlantic island possessions north of the Tropic of Cancer and French North Africa. The recent accession of Greece and Turkey to the North Atlantic Treaty has extended the boundaries of the Treaty area beyond the area which in basic fact constitutes the North Atlantic community. On the other hand, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, and perhaps Spain, are in fact a part of our community, but they are outside NATO. NATO, in short, represents the beginnings of an attempt at the conscious organization of the North Atlantic community, but it is not it.

The North Atlantic community comprises a closely-knit area the peoples of which have fundamentally a common heritage, a common view of life, common patterns of thought, common interests, and who subscribe to the broad principle of the primary value and dignity of the individual. These peoples and territories have shared a common trend of economic development and their present economic structures are closely interwoven by ties of trade, communications and investment, and are based upon a common technology and a common pattern of business practice and organization. Broadly speaking, its area is not dissimilar from that of