



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE NEED FOR ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP

Remarks by the Prime Minister to the
Opening Session of the Tenth Annual Assembly
of the Atlantic Treaty Association, Ottawa,
September 14, 1964.

When I last had the pleasure of addressing you in Boston in 1958, I was able to do so with the confidence and freedom of one who no longer held government office. The restraints of office are upon me once again but, whether as a private citizen or a public servant, my views as to the need for evolution within NATO towards a united transatlantic community remain unchanged.

I am pleased that your Association is meeting in Canada, the "other" North American member of the NATO alliance. It will give you an opportunity to appreciate the importance Canadians attach to membership in an outward-looking and progressive Western alliance.

When I last spoke to you, I suggested that: "...my country's destiny cannot be realized in isolation and one way by which its greatness could be best displayed would be to work for the building of a true and united Atlantic community". I still believe this to be so but, unfortunately, in the intervening years there has been slow progress towards an interdependent Atlantic coalition, broader and deeper than a military alliance and with a true sense of partnership between its European and North American members.

Cohesive Versus Divisive Forces

We appear to be approaching another of those periods in the West when the basic forces that keep us together confront the forces that divide us. Military technology has made such swift progress, particularly in the development of thermonuclear missiles, that there is a danger of coming to believe that even the military links between the two sides of the Atlantic are no longer vital. There is also the danger that we may forget the lessons of the first part of this century and give up our search for an Atlantic community based on common beliefs and common heritage for the illusory advantages of a too narrow nationalism or a restricted continentalism. I support those who seek to improve a mutual awareness and a constructive partnership between the nations on both sides of the Atlantic. Neither Europe nor North America can afford to "go it alone" in the nuclear age.