

Among the specific subjects under active consideration by the Division during the year were: the negotiations leading to the North Atlantic Treaty and the subsequent establishment of organizations to implement the Treaty; procurement of military supplies in the United States; joint defence projects with the United States; the United States bases in Newfoundland.

The North Atlantic Treaty

The completion of the North Atlantic Treaty, and the establishment of the necessary organs to make it effective, were events of major importance in Canada's external relations during 1949.

As noted in the *Annual Report* of the Department for 1948, discussions regarding the formation of a regional security arrangement for the North Atlantic area were begun in Washington in the summer of 1948 between representatives of the United States, Canada, and the Western Union countries (the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg). As a result of these discussions, the North Atlantic Treaty finally emerged. It was signed on April 4, 1949, by the original seven countries together with Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Italy and Portugal, and ratified on August 24, 1949.

The Treaty is a short document with a simple purpose: the preservation of peace and security in the North Atlantic area. Broadly speaking, the Parties have agreed to pool their defence resources in the face of a common danger. The primary objective is to strengthen the North Atlantic community in order to avoid war; the secondary objective is to ensure that if war cannot be avoided and should an armed attack occur against any of the Parties, effective aid will be forthcoming to protect the freedom of the North Atlantic nations and to restore the situation.

The heart of the Treaty is contained in Articles 3, 4, and 5. Article 3 provides that the Parties "separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack." Article 4 provides that the Parties "will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened." Article 5 provides that the Parties "agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all; and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the