

NATO cannot live on fear alone, nor can it become the source of a real Atlantic community if it remains organized to deal only with the military threat which first brought it into being. A new emphasis, therefore, on the non-military side of NATO's development is essential. It would also be the best answer to the Soviet charge that it is an aggressive, exclusively military agency, aimed against Moscow.

We are now faced by the challenge from the Communist bloc of competitive co-existence; or, to put it another way - of all conflict short of full scale war. This may be an improvement on the imminent possibility of nuclear devastation, but it is a long way from the security of co-operation co-existence and it has not removed the menace of Communist domination.

The NATO countries must find the answer to this new challenge; by demonstrating the quality and value and sincerity of their co-operation, between themselves, and with all members of the international community. We have here a new opportunity as well as a new challenge, and if we do not take advantage of it, speeches about the Atlantic community will, before long, have as little meaning as those about the lost continent of Atlantis. As the material and technological gap between the NATO countries and the Soviet bloc diminishes, it will be all the more important to maintain the distinctions in other and more important respects: and to ensure that these are more fully understood and valued.

This will require closer cooperation - political and economic - within NATO than has been the case; finding new ways by which we can build up and strengthen our own sense of community - and show others that what we are building is no selfish and exclusive way.

I hope that the meeting of the NATO Council later this week will find the answers to some of these questions. And begin a serious and practical search for the others. So it should be an important meeting, if not an easy one. At it we may find ourselves discussing policies rather than power; aims rather than arms; division rather than divisions.

NATO, in truth, is now at the crossroads of its existence. If it is to be forward, and in the right direction, it must concentrate on ways and means of bringing its members closer together politically, without weakening its defence unity and strength. For this purpose the Council must become a more effective agency for consultation and cooperation than it has been.