

the Atlantic. The Parliamentarians will be examining this proposal and others during the coming year, but it must be noted that there is no general agreement among them on this subject. The Secretary-General, Mr. Stikker, and some members of the British delegation expressed the view that the strength of the Conference lay in its present spontaneous and unofficial nature. They argued that the Conference would not have any real prospect of changing its influence by changing its legal status.

Whatever position the Conference may take about its status, it was clear from this Seventh Conference that these annual meetings have come to be accepted by all concerned with NATO as a useful institution. As General Norstad told the conference, "You are entitled to know where we stand; how strong we are, and to hear from responsible officers of the Alliance something of our progress as well as our problems." Being informed, he said, it was the responsibility of the Parliamentarians to influence their publics and their parliaments in order to gain the necessary support for NATO.

At the close of the Conference, the newly elected President, Senator Pietro Micara of Italy, recalled that the Conference had led the way in proposing many important developments within the Atlantic Community which were now becoming matters of fact. Among these were: the formation of the OECD, the adhesion of Great Britain to the Common Market, the establishment of a "fire brigade" mobile force under NATO, the development of a NATO science programme and, in the public sector, the establishment of an Atlantic Institute, the convening of the Atlantic Congress in 1959 and the Atlantic Convention in 1962.