



L. B. PEARSON

H. LANGE

G. MARTINO

The special committee appointed by the North Atlantic Council "to improve and extend NATO cooperation in non-military fields and develop greater unity within the Atlantic community" is made up of, left to right above, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Mr. H. Lange; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Mr. G. Martino.

Following is the text of the communique issued at the conclusion of the Ministerial meeting:

### NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 4-5 1956

#### Final Communique

The North Atlantic Council met in Paris on May 4 and 5 under the chairmanship of Dr. Gurmundsson, Foreign Minister of Iceland, and issued the following communique:

The Atlantic Powers, seven years ago, entered into the North Atlantic Treaty in face of the communist threat to their common ideals and civilization. For they had seen imperilled all the human rights which their peoples regard as essential for their life and freedom, particularly representative government, freedom of the individual, the rule of law and liberty of the press.

With the disappearance of the last free regime in Eastern Europe, that of Czechoslovakia, the Berlin blockade in 1948, and two years later, the invasion of Korea, the concern of the Free World reached its climax. The need for collective military defence was all the more obvious because at the end of the Second World War the free world had disarmed.

These were the circumstances which led to the creation of NATO and its military strength, and this is why the sacrifices necessary for the defence of the Atlantic community have since then been borne in common.

II. The collective defence efforts of the Atlantic Powers have not been in vain. They have successfully deterred Soviet aggression in Europe and have contributed to the adoption by the Soviet Government of the so-called policy of co-existence.