

The Ministers welcomed the continuing progress in political consultation within the Alliance, observed with satisfaction the more frequent attendance of Ministers and senior officials from capitals at regular meetings of the Council in permanent session, and noted that the Council had embarked on the study of the state of the Alliance which, at the preceding Ministerial meeting, it had been directed to undertake. The hope was expressed that, without prejudging the legal and political position of any member, an early solution would be found to the difficulties facing the UN and thus enable that organization to play its proper role in helping to preserve international peace and security.

The annual Ministerial meeting held in Paris Dec. 14-16 was attended by a Canadian delegation led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Defence. The Ministers noted that members of NATO had promoted and extended their contacts and exchanges with the U.S.S.R. and the countries of Eastern Europe, and affirmed that they would continue to seek an improvement in their relations with these countries. It was a matter for satisfaction that the efforts made in this regard had met with some degree of response, mainly in the sphere of bilateral relations. The Ministers noted, however, that the U.S.S.R. continued to oppose a settlement of the cardinal issues between East and West and they therefore emphasized their determination to maintain the unity of the Alliance and ensure its collective defence.

The Ministers noted the progress made in studies of the interrelated questions of strategy, force requirements and resources, which had been initiated at the Ottawa session in May 1963. Force goals for the period 1966-70 were being worked out as the first of a series of steps designed to secure closer alignment between NATO military requirements and national force plans within the agreed strategic concept of a forward defence posture. They accepted in principle the introduction of new procedures designed to improve the annual process of reviewing the defence efforts of member countries and agreeing upon their force contributions. These procedures, by projecting Alliance force goals and country plans five years ahead each year, are intended to enhance the capacity of the Alliance to adapt its defence plans to changes both in military technology and in the international situation. The Ministers instructed the Council in permanent session to review the organizational and financial basis of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force.

The Secretary General reported on his activities under the 'watching brief' in regard to Greek-Turkish relations entrusted to his predecessor by the Council at The Hague in May 1964. The Ministers agreed that these activities should continue and also reiterated their support for the efforts of the UN to reduce tension in Cyprus. The Council endorsed the Secretary General's plea for an early resumption of constructive discussions between Greece and Turkey and stressed the importance of a speedy solution to the financial and other problems involved in the continuation of the UN peace-keeping operation.

**Canadian Contributions to NATO.**—Support for NATO during 1965 continued to be one of the foundations of Canadian foreign policy. As its contribution to the military strength of the Alliance, Canada maintains an army brigade and an air division in Europe and supporting forces in Canada, including one battalion assigned to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force. It has assigned a substantial naval force to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) for the defence of the Canada-United States region in case of emergency and participates with the United States in the defence of the North American Continent through the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD).

Since 1950, Canada has contributed approximately \$1,800,000,000 in mutual aid to European members of NATO. The aid program, consisting of contributions to NATO infrastructure and military costs, transfers of equipment to member countries and aircrew training in Canada of NATO forces, continued in 1965. This program has decreased in magnitude with the changing conditions and the increasing ability of the European members to meet their individual defence requirements.