

in North America. Beginning with the summer of 1948, the Ambassadors of the Brussels Treaty Powers and Canada began holding informatory and exploratory talks at Washington with representatives of the United States. Representatives of other North Atlantic countries were invited to the discussions at a later stage and, on Apr. 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed by twelve nations—Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Treaty was accepted by all major groups of opinion in Canada, and it was passed without a single dissenting vote in Parliament.

In 1952, two important steps were taken to extend the coverage of the Treaty. Greece and Turkey were admitted to membership and their territories were thereby included in the area guaranteed by the Treaty. A plan was also approved for the association of German forces with Western defence through membership of the German Federal Republic in a European Defence Community and by the exchange of mutual guarantees between that Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In May 1952, the European Defence Community Treaty was signed at Paris by Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. At the same time, contractual agreements between Germany and the three Occupying Powers were signed at Bonn. When these interdependent agreements are ratified, a European Army is to be established which will include German forces and which will be under NATO command. An Interim Committee has been set up at Paris to study the technical problems connected with the establishment of the European Army.

**The Treaty.**—The North Atlantic Treaty in its preamble reaffirms the faith of the Parties in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and declares that the Parties “are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their people, founded on the principle of democracy individual liberty and the rule of law”. Article I makes clear that the Treaty does not conflict with the United Nations Charter but rather supplements it.

The primary objective of the Treaty is the preservation of peace and security in the North Atlantic area. The defence measures required for this are defined 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”. By Article 5, the Parties agree that an armed attack against any of them shall be deemed an attack against all, and that, in the event of such an attack, each will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking, individually and in concert with the others, “such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area”.

The Parties have also recognized that both the support of military forces and the maintenance of the will to resist depend, in the long run, on promoting the stability and well-being of the North Atlantic area. This objective is embodied in Article 2, the inclusion of which in the Treaty was strongly urged by Canada. This Article declares: