

**1. Ottawa Declaration 20 SEPTEMBER 1951  
17th October, 1951**

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NATO, OTHER THAN IN  
CONNECTION WITH DEFENCE PLANS**

**(THE NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY)**

At their meeting at 10 a.m. on 20th September, 1951 (C7-R/10, Item I) the Council approved the following documents in the form attached herewith:

- (a) The statement issued at the end. of the Ottawa session regarding the North Atlantic Community (Annex A)
- (b) The terms of reference for the Ministerial Committee which is to consider the development of the North Atlantic Community.(Annex B,)

13, Bolgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

**ANNEX A**

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL  
AT THE END OF THE OTTAWA SESSION  
REGARDING THE NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY**

The peoples of the North Atlantic community are united under the North Atlantic Treaty to preserve their freedom and to develop their common heritage of democracy, liberty and the rule of law. During the past two years, since the Treaty came into being, North Atlantic countries have joined in collective efforts for their defence. They will continue to work together closely to consolidate the North Atlantic community. All obstacles which hinder such cooperation on an equal footing should be removed.

The persistent attempts which have been made and are being made to divide the peoples of the North Atlantic community will fail. Those who make these attempts do not understand the nature or the strength of the close ties between the free peoples of the North Atlantic community. The preservation of peace is the very essence of that community, and free discussion as to how this can best be done is a source of continuing strength.

It was the threatening international situation that brought 12 nations of the North Atlantic community formally together under the North Atlantic Treaty to create sufficient strength to preserve their freedom and liberty.

A series of so called peace offers as vague in language as they are obscure in content are made from time to time. The peoples of the North Atlantic community will test these offers by the deeds that follow them. They will never reject any genuine move for peace, but will not be deflected from building up their defensive strength by mere empty words about peace.

The strengthening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the past two years has developed in the minds of the peoples a strong sense of their common interests and ideals. There is a desire within the North Atlantic Community to meet specific needs in all fields where close collaboration will advance the welfare of the community.

One basis for the further development of the North Atlantic community is Article II of the North Atlantic Treaty which states:

“The Parties will contribute towards the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them.”

A clear sense of the direction in which the community is developing should make it easier to take practical steps towards that end.

#### ANNEX A

The Council has therefore decided to set up a Ministerial Committee composed of representatives from Belgium, Canada, Italy, Netherlands and Norway, to consider the further strengthening of the North Atlantic Community and especially the implementation of Article II of the North Atlantic Treaty.

The Committee, assisted by the Council Deputies, will, in particular, consider and make recommendations to the Council on the following matters:

- (a) Coordination and frequent consultation on foreign policy, having particular regard to steps designed to promote peace;
- (b) Closer economic, financial and social cooperation, designed to promote conditions of economic stability and well-being, both during and after the present period of the defence effort, within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or through other Agencies;

- (c) Collaboration in the fields of culture and public information.

In these and other ways the Council will build up the inner strength of the North Atlantic community, without duplicating the work of other international organizations which promote the same objectives.

The Council endorses the recent declaration of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation which called on all sections of the European community to increase production and play their part in the collective effort for peace and well-being.

In developing the North Atlantic Community, the Council will act in conformity with and seek to strengthen the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is only by the work and by the enlightened understanding of the free peoples everywhere that the cause of freedom and democracy will be upheld against any challenge.

## **ANNEX B**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY**

1. The Council has decided to set up a Ministerial Committee to consider the further strengthening of the North Atlantic community and especially the application of Article II of the North Atlantic Treaty.

2. The members of this Committee will be:

- (a) Belgium            Chairman of the Council  
    Canada            Chairman of the Council for the coming period  
    Italy  
    Netherlands  
    Norway  
(b) The Chairman of the Council Deputies.

3. The Committee will provide for consultation with other members of the Council as required.

4. The Committee, assisted by the Council Deputies, will, in particular, consider and make recommendations to the Council on the following matters:

- (a) Coordination and frequent consultation on foreign policy, having particular regard to steps designed to promote peace;
- (b) Closer economic, financial and social cooperation designed to promote conditions of economic stability and well-being, both during and after the period of the defence effort, within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or through other Agencies;
- (c) Collaboration in the fields of culture and public information.

The Committee will bear in mind the importance of avoiding duplication of work already being done by existing bodies.

5. The Committee will make a report to the next meeting of the Council.

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