

NATO Parliamentarians Endorse Basic Atlantic Convention Idea
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News came from Paris, as we went to press, that the Conference of Members of Parliament from the 15 NATO Countries unanimously adopted in its closing session there Nov. 16 a resolution endorsing, in substance, the major aims of the proposed Convention to explore Atlantic Union first introduced in Congress in 1949.

The resolution was presented as the recommendation of the Conference's Political Committee, chaired by Senator Estes Kefauver, with Geoffrey de Freitas, British M.P., as rapporteur, after much private discussion of it in which only three negative voices were heard. The last two paragraphs call for a conference of officially appointed citizens who, acting "in accordance with their individual convictions"—and therefore presumably free from official instructions—"shall examine exhaustively" how greater Atlantic unity may be developed. This procedure marked the 1787 Convention that produced the U.S. Constitution, and distinguished the proposed Atlantic Exploratory Convention. The resolution reads:

"This Third Annual Conference of NATO Parliamentarians,

"RECOGNIZING that effective unity among democratic nations must be based upon their peoples,

"NOTING the efforts both of the NATO Governments and of NATO Parliamentarians to develop greater unity within the Atlantic Community,

"BELIEVES that the present critical situation requires that their efforts should now be supplemented by a corresponding effort on the part of leading citizens of their countries,

"INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to arrange a meeting of leading citizens representatives of the national communities and those organizations whose cooperation would be valuable and appropriate for the convening in 1959, tenth year of the North Atlantic Treaty, of an Atlantic Congress comparable to the Hague Congress of 1948, and requests Heads of Governments at their meeting in December 1957 to support this proposal,

"RECOMMENDS that their governments, in consultation with the Standing Committee and Political Committee of the Conference, bring about, in accordance with the constitutional and governmental processes of their countries, a conference composed of leading representative citizens selected on a non-partisan basis and directed to convene as often as necessary in order to examine exhaustively and to recommend how greater cooperation and unity of purpose, as envisioned by the North Atlantic Treaty, within the Atlantic Community may best be developed,

"PROPOSES, that to fulfill this purpose the members of the conference should, as far as possible, be officially appointed by should act in accordance with their individual convictions and that the findings be reported to the appropriate Committee of the NATO Parliamentarians'

Conference, to the North Atlantic Council and to member governments for consideration and appropriate action in accordance with the constitutional processes of each member country."