THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

By LOUIS B. SOHN


The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been developing in a rather haphazard way since the moment of its inception. It has been reorganized completely in 1952, and new proposals for further changes in its structure are being considered at present.

The North Atlantic Treaty itself provided only for the establishment of »a council, on which each of them shall be represented, to consider matters concerning the implementation of this Treaty«. That council was empowered to set up »such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary«, including »a defense committee«.

The foreign ministers of the twelve States parties to the Treaty met as the »Council« of the Organization in September 1949, and decided that the Defense Committee shall be composed of the twelve defense ministers. The latter met in October 1949 and established a military committee composed of the chiefs of staff of the twelve States, with a coordinating Subcommittee of three (France, United Kingdom and United States), known as the »Standing Group«. In addition, five regional planning groups were created, together with a Military Production and Supply Board.

At its second session (November 1949), the North Atlantic Council established a »Defense Financial and Economic Committee«, to recommend financial arrangements for executing defense plans on the basis of an appraisal of the financial and economic situation of member countries.

During its fourth session (May 1950), the Council decided to appoint »Council Deputies«, to carry out its policies in the in-

2) Article 9.
terval between the meetings of the ministers\textsuperscript{5}). A North Atlantic Planning Board for Ocean Shipping was established at the same time\textsuperscript{6}).

In September 1950, the North Atlantic Council agreed upon the establishment of »an integrated force under centralized command«, with a Supreme Commander and a Chief of Staff\textsuperscript{7}). General Eisenhower's appointment as Supreme Commander was made in December 1950\textsuperscript{8}). A Defense Production Board replaced, at the same time, the old Military Production and Supply Board, and was charged »with expanding and accelerating production and with furthering the mutual use of the industrial capacities of the member nations«\textsuperscript{9}).

In May 1951, the Council was enlarged to include not only foreign ministers but also defense and finance ministers; the powers of the Council of Deputies were increased; and a Financial and Economic Board replaced the Defense Financial and Economic Committee\textsuperscript{10}).

The first organizational phase was thus completed, and in September 1951 a special Atlantic Community Committee was created to make recommendations on closer political, economic, financial, social and cultural cooperation in order to »consolidate the North Atlantic Community«\textsuperscript{11}).

2. Reorganization of NATO.

The structure of NATO was completely revised at the ninth session of the Council (Lisbon, February 1952) »to adapt the Treaty Organization to the needs arising from the development of its activities from the planning to the operational stage«. The Council decided to appoint a Secretary General to head »a unified international secretariat«, replacing the scattered secretariats of the various committees and boards. The civilian headquarters of the Organization were established at Paris, to facilitate the coordination of civilian and defense activities.

The Council Deputies, the two boards, and the Atlantic Community Committee, were abolished, and the North Atlantic Council

\textsuperscript{6}) Ibid., p. 830.
\textsuperscript{7}) Idem, Vol. 23, p. 558.
\textsuperscript{8}) Idem, Vol. 24, p. 6. For approval by the U. S. Senate of this action and of sending of American troops to Europe, see ibid., p. 657.
\textsuperscript{9}) Ibid., p. 7.
\textsuperscript{10}) Ibid., pp. 810-2.