242 NATO Leaders Sign Declaration of Atlantic Unity

Freedom & Union, January, 1963

Paris, 12th November, 1962. A "Declaration of Atlantic Unity" calling for seven specific steps towards the creation of a true Atlantic Community was presented today to the Conference of NATO Parliamentarians by Senator Estes Kefauver of the U.S. on behalf of 24 delegates who were signers of the declaration.

The declaration was signed by 242 leaders from 14 NATO Countries, 42 of whom are former members of their respective governments including 11 former prime ministers and foreign ministers.

84 signers are members of parliaments, including 6 speakers or presidents.

Other signers included leading publishers, editors, business executives, labor leaders, and university presidents and professors in the 14 countries.

This was the second Declaration of Atlantic Unity to be made public. Signers of the first declaration, issued in 1954, were instrumental in organizing the NATO Parliamentarians' Conference in 1955, OECD in 1960-61, the Atlantic Institute, and the Atlantic Exploratory Convention in January, 1962. The recommendations of the latter included the first five points appearing hereunder.

The text of the second Declaration of Atlantic Unity, adopted by the Sponsors in April, 1962, and the list of signers follows.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED citizens of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States address this APPEAL FOR ATLANTIC UNITY to our fellow citizens and to our governments.

We believe:

That sovereignty of the individual and freedom under law are mankind's most precious political heritage.

That the bastion of human freedom is the Atlantic Community.

That this bastion remains in grave peril.

That only by our unity can we preserve the liberties we enjoy and only by our example will they appeal to all mankind.

International Communism believes in unity through force; its aim is a monolithic tyranny; it is determined to destroy us. Its threat to freedom is not only military but also political, ideological, and economic. It is not confined to Europe or the Atlantic but is world wide. We must be united in our relevant policies on all fronts and in all areas.

We, therefore, mutually pledge our support to each other as faithful friends who share a common cultural and spiritual heritage and the institutions arid processes of democracy. We dedicate our efforts to develop our alliance into a true Atlantic Community to insure that these concepts shall not perish from the earth. We call on our governments to undertake without delay these measures to establish a true Atlantic Community, the first five of which were unanimously recommended by the Atlantic Convention of NATO Nations at Paris in January, 1962; to:

- I. Establish a governmental commission on Atlantic Unity to draw up a Charter for an Atlantic Community suitably organized to meet the challenges of this era.
- 2. Create a permanent High Council which should act in defined cases by a weighted majority vote on matters of common concern.
- 3. Develop the NATO Parliamentarians' Conference into a consultative Atlantic Assembly which would review the work of all Atlantic institutions and make recommendations to them.
- 4. Form a trade partnership between the European Economic Community and North America as a basis for an Atlantic Economic Community, but open to all other qualified nations of the free world.
- 5. Establish an Atlantic High Court of Justice to decide specific legal controversies which might arise under Community treaties.
- 6. Promote measures to ensure more effective defense including further development of a unified Atlantic command; a common strategy both inside and outside the Atlantic area; greater standardization and a more rational production of arms and equipment; and defense contributions fairly shared among our respective countries.
- 7. Support and expand the Atlantic Institute as an intellectual and spiritual centre for the Atlantic Community.

Only by a united and integrated effort can we provide economic aid to, and markets for, developing countries on the scale required.

Inspired by the contributions made in the past by our separate nations, we can follow a glorious destiny by joining our present strength.

BELGIUM

Senator Elie Van Bogaert, Senator Fernand Dehousse, Senator Roger Dekeyzer, Leo Delwaide, M.P., Maurice Destenay, M.P., Rene Dreze, M.P., Gaston Eyskens, M.P., Senator Henri de

Moreau Melen, Senator Roger Motz, Senator Et. de la Valle Poussin, Lucien Radoux, M.P., August de Schryver, M.P., Senator Omer Vanaudenhove, Paul Van Zeeland

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