

Mr. PETER SCOTT

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

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NATO Farewell Reception for General Eisenhower.

General of the Army, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, paid a farewell visit to the Palais de Chaillot Headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization this morning. 500 members of the International Staff of NATO and of the National Delegations to the North Atlantic Treaty Council, were present. Lord Ismay, Secretary General, and Vice Chairman of the North Atlantic Council, introduced General Eisenhower.

The texts of Lord Ismay's and General Eisenhower's remarks follow:-

LORD ISMAY:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. General Eisenhower has very kindly consented to come here today and give us a farewell message.

GENERAL EISENHOWER:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am certainly in a unique position. You know, you are my bosses and usually one does not go around giving good advice and lecturing to his bosses, so I will try today to avoid being in the position of teacher or preacher. I shall try to tell you, in my own way, something of what I think of this Group, something of my respect for its opportunities for service, its capacity for good in the world today.

Primarily, I believe this is the only body in the whole free world that is meeting day-by-day and studying objectively the real issues, the real problems, that are of concern to all of us. Those problems involve our freedoms as individuals--the rights that came to us when we were born in the image of God. Fundamentally, this is what you are dealing with and you are the only Group that is meeting and dispassionately studying the problem all the way from its material aspects such as making a living for ourselves and producing the strength to protect that living, to the challenge of growing culturally, intellectually, spiritually throughout our whole lives. Now, because I have the deep conviction that you people have a mission of such transcendent importance to the free world, I likewise feel that it is going to take courage on your part to discharge it effectively and properly. I realize, of course, that each of the members of the Council--the principals, the ones that have to bear the responsibility--each of you has a certain relationship with your own government, which is a sovereign nation, and that you have to present views in certain meetings that are not necessarily your own views. In such cases,

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you have to present the position of your government, but thank God that is only part of your work. As intelligent men studying the great problems before our community, you not only have the opportunity but, in my humble opinion, you have the duty of reaching conclusions and convictions based on your own intelligence, your own heart and your own beliefs. And, moreover, I believe that you really have the duty of making the views clear to your own country, your own government, because I repeat, there is no one who could possibly have the opportunity to study these subjects as dispassionately, as objectively, as the members of this Group.

In talking to you today, I could recite experiences of the past year which would illustrate the very fine cooperation and support that we have received from the civilian sections of NATO; such sentiments would be very sincere and, of course, they are rather characteristic of such occasions as this when some associate or member of an organization is leaving. However, I think you know how cordial our association has been. I think that you, like those at SHAPE, have been animated by the same passionate hope of serving humanity, of making it secure, of gaining ground toward that level of security where we can devote our income, our resources, our productivity to the good of people. We should like soon to reach that point where we do not have to divert so much of our national incomes into the profitless, sterile, negative means that we call military formations. It is a group such as yours that can possibly do more to preserve that balance between what is necessary in a world threatened by evil and what we must earnestly try to do in a more constructive direction, more in keeping with the ideals for which free government was set up.

Now I realize when discussing such subjects before a body like this that I am talking to people who in their intellectual and scholarly attainments can take the same subject and make something eloquent out of it. The only thing that I can maintain as I stand before you is that no one could be more devoted than I to the rights and privileges of free people. I believe also that they have it within their capacity to hold their freedom if each will meet his just obligations and duties. In the free world, the accumulated combined resources are such that it sometimes appears that we are foolish, practically ridiculous, to be frightened of any force in the world. Our one trouble is that we are not united; we too much enjoy the special prejudices and suspicions that keep us apart. Now the Communist uses the gun in the kidneys--a knife between the shoulder blades--and of course people are unified or else they do not exist. We have to find better ways. One of the ways is this body and I can see the development of friendship, understanding, unity as a primary job of you gentlemen who stand in the front row and bear heavy responsibilities.

You have a great Organization. Everybody in that Organization can do something--in their letters home; in all their communications with people throughout the world; in their day-by-day meetings. We can do this thing if we can produce something close to that described by a great American president, Woodrow Wilson. He said: "The highest form of efficiency is the spontaneous cooperation of a free people". Now, if you will simply take the expression "free people" and make it plural instead of singular I believe you will have the slogan, the watchword, the objective, that should guide everybody associated with this kind of an effort.

I should hope that I would not be out of place, Lord Ismay, in just making one simple pledge before I say my final good-bye.

Wherever I am, whatever I shall be doing, I shall never lose my faith, my conviction, in the essential truth of what I have been trying to say to you just now. I shall continue to work in that direction conscious that we must -- quickly as is possible -- get out of the strictly military business here and get into something that

is more profitable for us as a whole--more in keeping, as I say, with our culture and our purposes of our type of civilization.

With that pledge, I hope that I have established a fact that with this body and with everybody in it I shall always be warmly associated in heart even if I am not here to clasp your hand -- good-bye.

LORD ISMAY:

General Eisenhower, I speak for every man and woman in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization when I say we are deeply grateful to you, Sir, for sparing time to come here this morning. We are immensely encouraged and fortified by your inspiring words. We pledge ourselves to do our utmost for the cause which you hold so dear and for which you have fought so valiantly.

We shall sorely miss you, Sir, but we are fortunate that you are being succeeded by that renowned leader, General Ridgway, and we are immensely comforted that your brilliant Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, is remaining with us.

Sir, we wish you God Speed and all the success that you so richly deserve.