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FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR LORD ISMAY
AT THE PALAIS DE CHAILLOT

The Permanent Representatives of the North Atlantic Council held a special meeting at the Palais de Chaillot this afternoon, to bid farewell to Lord Ismay, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Lord Ismay is leaving NATO tomorrow afternoon, after more than five years' service to the Atlantic Alliance.

The members of the Council, each in his own language, paid tribute to the Secretary General. The texts of these tributes (or their translations into one of the two NATO official languages) and Lord Ismay's reply are attached.

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE 57(10)

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13 mai 1957

CEREMONIE D'ADIEU EN L'HONNEUR DE LORD ISMAY
AU PALAIS DE CHAILLOT

Les Représentants Permanents auprès du Conseil de l'Atlantique Nord se sont réunis spécialement cet après-midi au Palais de Chaillot pour une cérémonie d'adieu en l'honneur de Lord Ismay, Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord.

Lord Ismay doit quitter l'OTAN demain dans l'après-midi, après cinq ans d'exercice de ses fonctions au service de l'Alliance Atlantique.

Les membres du Conseil ont fait l'éloge du Secrétaire Général, chacun dans sa langue nationale. Les textes de ces discours (ou leur traduction dans une des deux langues officielles de l'OTAN), ainsi que la réponse de Lord Ismay, se trouvent en annexe.

DISCOURS PRONONCE PAR S.E. M. André de STAERCKE
REPRESENTANT PERMANENT DE LA BELGIQUE
DOYEN DU CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Au moment de votre départ, en m'adressant à vous, mon émotion hésite devant le choix des mots. Je ne sais même pas comment vous appeler. Je vous respecte comme le Président de ce Conseil. J'ai marché près de vous comme un ami et je vous aime comme un fils. L'extrême affection de mes sentiments ne me permet pas de leur trouver une expression adéquate. Je voudrais seulement vous dire que, dans l'humble reconnaissance que l'on porte à la vie pour ce qu'elle nous a donné, une des choses dont je lui suis le plus redevable, c'est d'avoir eu l'honneur de servir à vos côtés.

Je voudrais, par une anecdote, remonter à la chance grâce à laquelle nous vous avons eu parmi nous.

Il y a cinq ans, j'avais le bonheur de déjeuner avec Sir Winston Churchill, à Downing Street. C'était un mercredi d'avril, le jour du budget. Avant de partir pour la Chambre des Communes, le Premier Ministre me demanda ce que nous allions faire cet après-midi au Conseil atlantique: "Nous allons, lui répondis-je, désigner un Secrétaire Général". "Eh bien, dit-il, allez à votre Conseil et dites-lui que s'il le désire, je suis prêt à lui donner mon bras droit, I'll give you my right hand, je ne pourrais pas faire mieux".

Nous avons eu ainsi, pour nous guider pendant cinq ans, un des meilleurs et le plus proche collaborateur d'un des plus grands hommes de tous les temps.

Depuis quelques jours, l'encens des louanges entoure justement votre oeuvre. On ne répétera jamais assez ce que la Communauté atlantique doit à son premier Secrétaire Général. Mes collègues autour de cette table vous rediront, mieux que moi, les motifs de notre gratitude. Je voudrais en passant saluer une âme ferme et un coeur d'or, une volonté inflexible et une bonhomie conquérante.

Je voudrais vous remercier aussi pour le précieux cadeau que vous nous donnez en partant. Vous nous laissez un état d'esprit. Je ne pourrais pas mieux le caractériser que par votre propre devise: have no fear. Dans la langue latine qui demeurera toujours une des formes symboliques de notre nostalgie vers un humanisme universel, elle pourrait se lire en deux mots: sine metu.

S.E. M. de STAIRCKE (suite)

Cette absence de crainte n'est pas faite d'ignorance devant le péril, d'arrogance devant la menace, d'insouciance devant l'action. Elle naît d'une prise de conscience du danger, d'une décision réfléchie de nous défendre, d'une gravité tranquille devant l'enjeu qui est de survivre dans le progrès individuel et social de notre civilisation. Vous nous avez conduit en suivant l'âme de votre devise. Elle est à la fois un programme, un résultat, un espoir. Je souhaite qu'en nous quittant vous laissiez cette devise, sine metu, à l'Organisation atlantique comme un gage d'avenir et de foi dans les destinées pacifiques du monde libre.

SPEECH MADE BY H.E. Mr. L.D. WILGRESS,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA
TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman,

It is with a feeling of some emotion that I speak from this seat with you in the chair for the last time. This meeting of the Council marks the end of an era, one that has been productive of much good for NATO. It has been in large measure due to your leadership that during the past five years the foundations have been well and truly laid for a civilian organization that assures the stability of the Alliance for many years to come and for the close co-operation that now exists between the civilian and military sides of NATO.

My mind goes back to the day five years ago when you took over the leadership of our Alliance. You had to start practically from scratch. Since then you have got together an efficient International Staff. The committee structure of the Council has been developed so that now all of the manifold interests of the Alliance are being cared for in a thorough and efficient way. What is perhaps still more important is the spirit you have instilled into all of our work. The International Staff has responded to your leadership by reflecting your devotion to the cause we have at heart. Each of us Permanent Representatives has come to feel that we are a member of a team whose captain imbues in us the will and enthusiasm to overcome the obstacles to victory. This feeling is reflected throughout the various members of our delegations. That, Mr. Chairman, is how I view your great contribution to NATO.

We, all of us, are grateful for what you have done. We also thank you for your many personal kindnesses to us. We shall miss you very much. We are consoled by the thought that you are now to have a well-deserved release from heavy responsibilities. We all rejoice in the fact that this rest begins with the satisfaction you may derive from the recognition of past services well-performed implicit in the great honour to be bestowed upon you by your Sovereign. We wish you many years to enjoy the leisure you have so richly earned. You shall be often in our thoughts and we hope to be able to see you from time to time. I shall conclude, therefore, by simply saying "au revoir" and many thanks.

LORD ISMAY'S REPLY

It has always been my practice to try to sum up the Council discussions after everyone who wishes to speak has done so. It is not always easy. But today it is simplicity itself.

Here are the conclusions, so far as we have gone:

"The Council has attributed to the Secretary General qualities of heart and mind that he has never possessed: they have given him credit for achievements for which they themselves, with the help of their delegations and the International Staff, are largely responsible: and they have lavished upon the Secretary General expressions of affection and good-will far exceeding anything that he has deserved."

And what can I say in reply? Only this. You have made me feel very humble and very proud: and you have made me feel more than ever grateful not only to yourselves as colleagues but also to the International Staff from the highest to the lowest. Had it not been for the unswerving, loyal support that they have always given to me, you would have had very different things to say about the retiring Secretary General.

In the course of my life I have had from time to time to say good-byes which have been extremely painful. Perhaps the worst so far was saying goodbye at the end of the First World War to the Regiment with which I had fought for over four years. But the fighting was over, and I could comfort myself with the thought that I was not walking out and leaving my comrades to bear the heat and burden of dangerous days.

That is what makes it harder to say good-bye to you all today. The fight is still on. The danger is still there, and the days that lie ahead will call for all the vigilance, all the courage, all the resolution that we can command. Above all, it will demand the most complete corporate unity among ourselves. That is the most precious and powerful weapon in our armoury.

You can imagine how sad I feel at quitting at this moment. On the other hand I am sure that my decision to resign is wise. I will not conceal from you, even if I could, that my mental and physical powers are on the wane. It is better to go while I realise that. For if I had grown senile in your service it would have been embarrassing for you to try to get rid of me.

LORD ISMAY (Contd.)

As it is, there will be sitting in this chair, perhaps the day after tomorrow, a Chairman, much younger, much more experienced in political matters, a great European and a fanatical believer in NATO. With all my heart I wish him every happiness and success.

You have been so generous to me that I hesitate to ask for yet another favour. But might I take away as a souvenir this gavel and block which were handed to me in London on the 4th April, 1952, and with which I have called a not unruly Council to order literally hundreds of times.

And in its place, I leave this new gavel and block. I leave it to remind you that in the days to come I shall be thinking of you as you sit round this table, and that I shall pray that you may be given not only a right judgement in all things, but also that spirit of loyal comradeship upon which the well-being of the Alliance so greatly depends.

The Council is adjourned.