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SPEECH BY SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN THE NATO COUNTRIES

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NATO IN THE SCIENTIFIC AGE

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is now eight years old. When NATO was born, the fortunes of our community were at ebbtide. The wounds of military strife had not yet healed. Post-war economic recovery was just beginning. Our community faced collapse from within. And from without, totalitarian systems confronted us with massive danger.

Then we closed ranks in NATO. We proved that, in the affairs of nations, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

To-day, seven years later, the miracle of our community's economic and social recovery is here for all to see. Side by side with this, our military defences have become formidable.

But a community of nations cannot stand in one place. It goes forward, or it inevitably goes backward. Each new year brings new problems and new challenges - requiring new solutions. Programmes adequate for yesterday become inadequate for to-day and tomorrow.

The symbol of the newest challenge to NATO is of course the Sputniks.

Let us state plain facts plainly: The Sputniks represent a monumental scientific and technical achievement. Although they have no direct military significance in themselves, they are an ominous symbol of the Soviet Union's growing scientific and military might. They are a sober reminder that, in certain areas of missile development, the Soviets now lead our own community.

Before Sputnik, too many imagined that the job of maintaining Atlantic community leadership could be done on a part-time basis. Too many imagined that the scientific and industrial supremacy of our community could never seriously be threatened.

We can no longer entertain such illusions. It should now be clear that we are in an all-out competition. This contest will not be decided by what we have done in the past; it will be decided by what we do in the future.

Acknowledging these elementary truths is one thing; a needless sense of defeatism is a completely different thing. If - and this is a vital if - if we exploit our true advantages, the years ahead can bring peace and unparalleled prosperity to the one- third billion people those of us assembled here to-day represent.

What is this "if" ? It is simply this: Our community will be first in military strength, and first in economic prosperity, only if it is first in science.

Our twentieth century world is now passing through a scientific revolution. Useful atomic power, automation, and the thousand and one other practical applications of these discoveries of the last century have brought our world, and our Atlantic community, to the threshold of an age of new abundance. At the same time, this scientific revolution has transformed the nature of warfare. Our community must now be able to defend itself against nuclear bombs carried by ballistic missiles.

A century ago, both military strength and economic wealth depended primarily on raw manpower and raw materials. Big armies and abundant natural resources represented an unbeatable combination.

But to-day this is not so. The discovery of a single scientific genius can contribute more to man's prosperity than the discovery of some vast new body of iron ore. And likewise, the discovery of one genius can upset the military balance of power.

To-day, the balance of economic and military power depends on the balance of scientific brain power.

Herein lies our community's peril - and its great opportunity.