

O T A N .



N A T O

DIVISION DE L'INFORMATION | INFORMATION DIVISION

PALAIS DE CHAILLOT PARIS XVI

TÉLÉPHONE : KLÉBER 50-20

PRESS RELEASE
MI(55)14

Not to be released
before 12 noon, Paris
time, May 9th, 1955

STATEMENT BY DR. ADENAUER

TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY DR. ADENAUER, CHANCELLOR AND
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.
AT THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL.
ON MAY 9th, 1955

The accession of the German Federal Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty has been hailed by you, Mr. Chairman, and by the Representatives of the Member countries who have just spoken, as an event of historical impact. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the words of welcome you have addressed to the Federal Government and to the whole German nation. Your words reflect the importance of the hour and of the event. You will realize that this moment fills me with deep emotion.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization represents a community of free nations which have manifested their determination to defend the common heritage of western civilization founded on the principles of individual liberty and the rule of law.

In view of the increasing threat by the Communist States of the Eastern Bloc the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in accordance with its objectives, was compelled to build up a military force for the common defence of its Member countries, their security and for the preservation of world peace.

The objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - in particular its purely defensive tasks - are, in view of the world wide political tension, in full harmony with the natural interests of the German nation which, after a dreadful experience gained in two World Wars, is longing as ardently as any other nation in the world for security and peace.

The German people have paid harshly for the horrors which were committed in their name by blind and evil leadership. These sufferings have transformed and purified the German nation. Today everywhere in Germany peace and freedom are felt to be the greatest treasures as was the case in the best periods of her history.

I see in the accession of the Federal Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and in the implementation of the treaties which the German Federal Republic has entered into with the nations of the free world the expression of the need to overcome the narrow-minded nationalism which, in the past decades, was the root of our disaster. We must bring social progress into harmony with technical development and integrate the powers released by this development into a well organized system so as to deprive them of their destructive effect. The organization of a common defence can therefore be but one of the aims of the North Atlantic Treaty.

NISCA FILE No.

For these reasons I believe some of the most important provisions of the North Atlantic Treaty to be the preamble and Article 2 in which the nations are called upon to co-operate in the economic and cultural spheres with a view to promoting their general well-being and safeguarding their common cultural heritage. You may be sure that it will be the foremost concern of the Federal Government to co-operate in these fields to the best of their ability.

The Federal Government are determined to strive together, with the other Member states, for peace and freedom. I know that this is the way the German nation as a whole is feeling and thinking as are those eighteen million of our brethren who are still being denied the right of free speech and of deciding freely on their destiny.

On behalf of the Federal Government and of the German people, I want to express our gratitude to the Powers represented in the North Atlantic Council for having guided Germany along the path leading her into the community of free nations and for having made our aim of re-uniting Germany in peace and freedom their own.

Within the community of free nations Germany will be an able and reliable partner and in this community we wish to employ all our efforts for the safeguarding of freedom and human dignity. These noble aims will guide Germany now that she is called upon, together with the other Member nations, to take her share of responsibility for the preservation of peace in the world.