

HALVARD M. LANGE



Born 16 September 1902. Died 19 May 1970.

Educated in Oslo and in London, Lange was a professor at several universities during the 1930s, lecturing on modern and economic history. Originally a member of the Social Democrat Party, Lange became a member of the National Executive of the Labour Party in 1933, ultimately serving as the Party's historian.

During the war, Lange was arrested by the Gestapo in August 1940, released in June 1941, re-arrested in August 1942 and spent the rest of the war in concentration camps.

Upon his return to Norway in 1945, he served as a full member of the Norwegian Parliament's Nobel Committee. He was appointed Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1946 and would remain in that office until 1965.

A strong supporter of Western alignment, Lange had arguably been the most influential figure in Scandinavia pushing for both Norway and Denmark to join NATO and ultimately signing the North Atlantic Treaty on behalf of his country on 4 April 1949.



“The only means of arriving at just solutions, as we see it, is through negotiation, through diplomacy...”

Halvard Lange, December 11, 1956; (C-VR(56)69)

Halvard Lange

GAETANO MARTINO



Born 25 November 1900. Died 21 July 1967.

A former physician and an internationally renowned Professor of Human Physiology, Martino was a distinguished member of many Italian and foreign academies and scientific societies. A Dean of the University of Messina (1943-1957) and the University of Rome (1966-1967), he devoted a significant part of his work to the issue of university education as a tool to encourage the teaching and dissemination of a European awareness.

A prominent Liberal politician, Martino was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1946. As Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1954 to 1957, Martino promoted a stronger European integration and internationalism for Italy. In 1955, he organized the Messina conference which resulted in the revivification of the European process. The following year, he obtained the Italian acceptance to the United Nations and in 1957 he attended the Treaty of Rome, which established the European Economic Community.

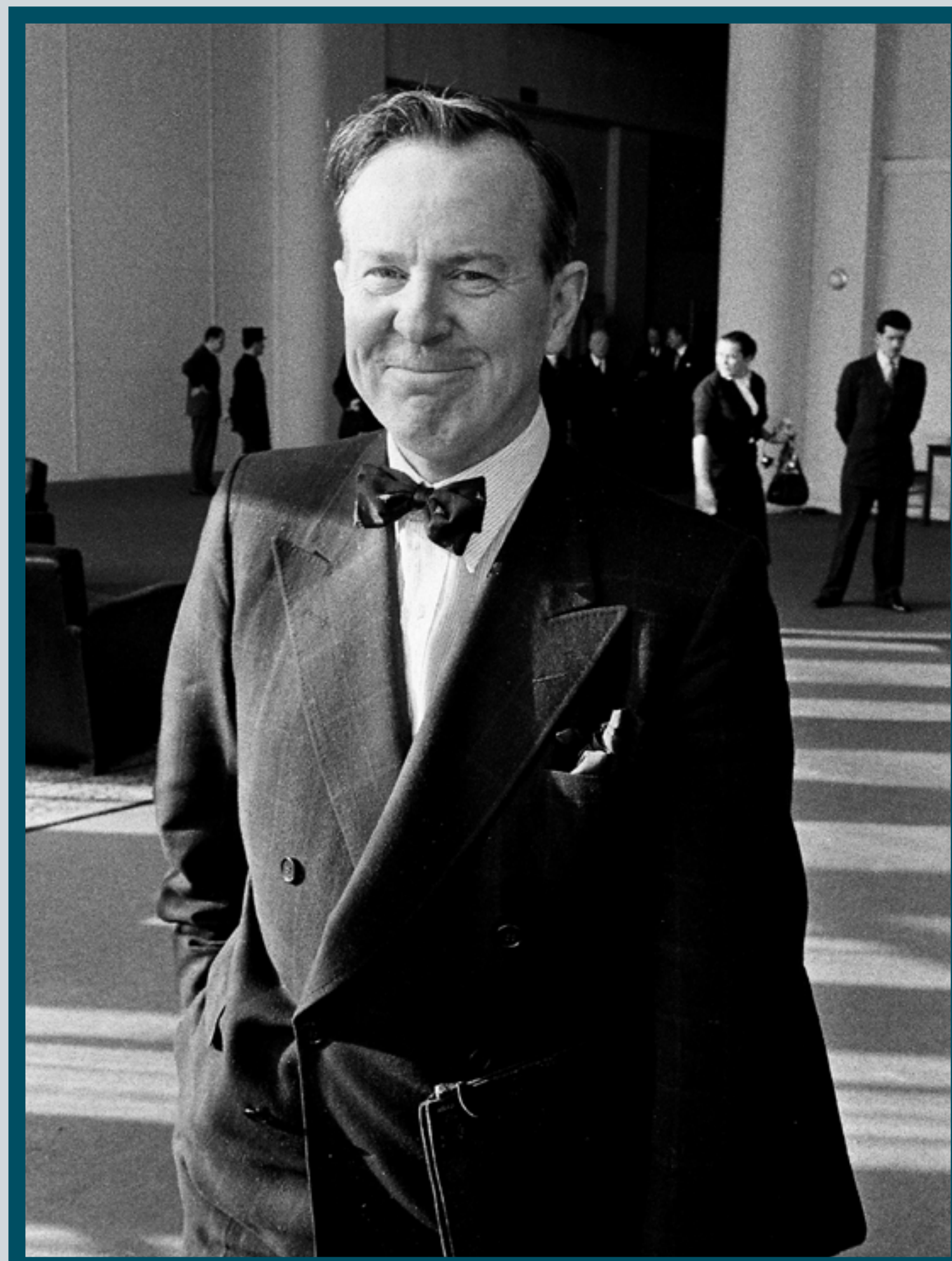
Martino was elected as President of the European Parliament in 1962 and served until 1964. A principal aspect of his parliamentary work was focused upon the development of European scientific research, which he considered a key component of the process of European unification. He also continued to serve as Deputy in the Italian Chamber until his death.



“We must recognize that there is only one way to overcome our current problems: by strengthening and expanding Atlantic cooperation.”

Gaetano Martino, December 12, 1956; (C-VR(56)72)

LESTER B. PEARSON



Born 23 April, 1897. Died 27 December 1972.

A commissioned Lieutenant of the Canadian Army following the First World War, Lester B. Pearson embarked on his political career in the Department of External Affairs in 1927. Assigned to London in the late 1930s, he served there during the Second World War, coordinating military supply and refugee support at Canada House.

Appointed as Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1948, Pearson was an original signatory to the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949. Pearson also served as Chairman of the North Atlantic Council from 1951 to 1952, and President of the United Nations General Assembly from 1952 to 1953. In 1957, Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize for organizing the United Nations Emergency Force to resolve the Suez Canal Crisis.

He became the 14th Prime Minister of Canada in 1963, serving two successive terms before retiring in 1968. He is considered among the most influential Canadians of the 20th century.

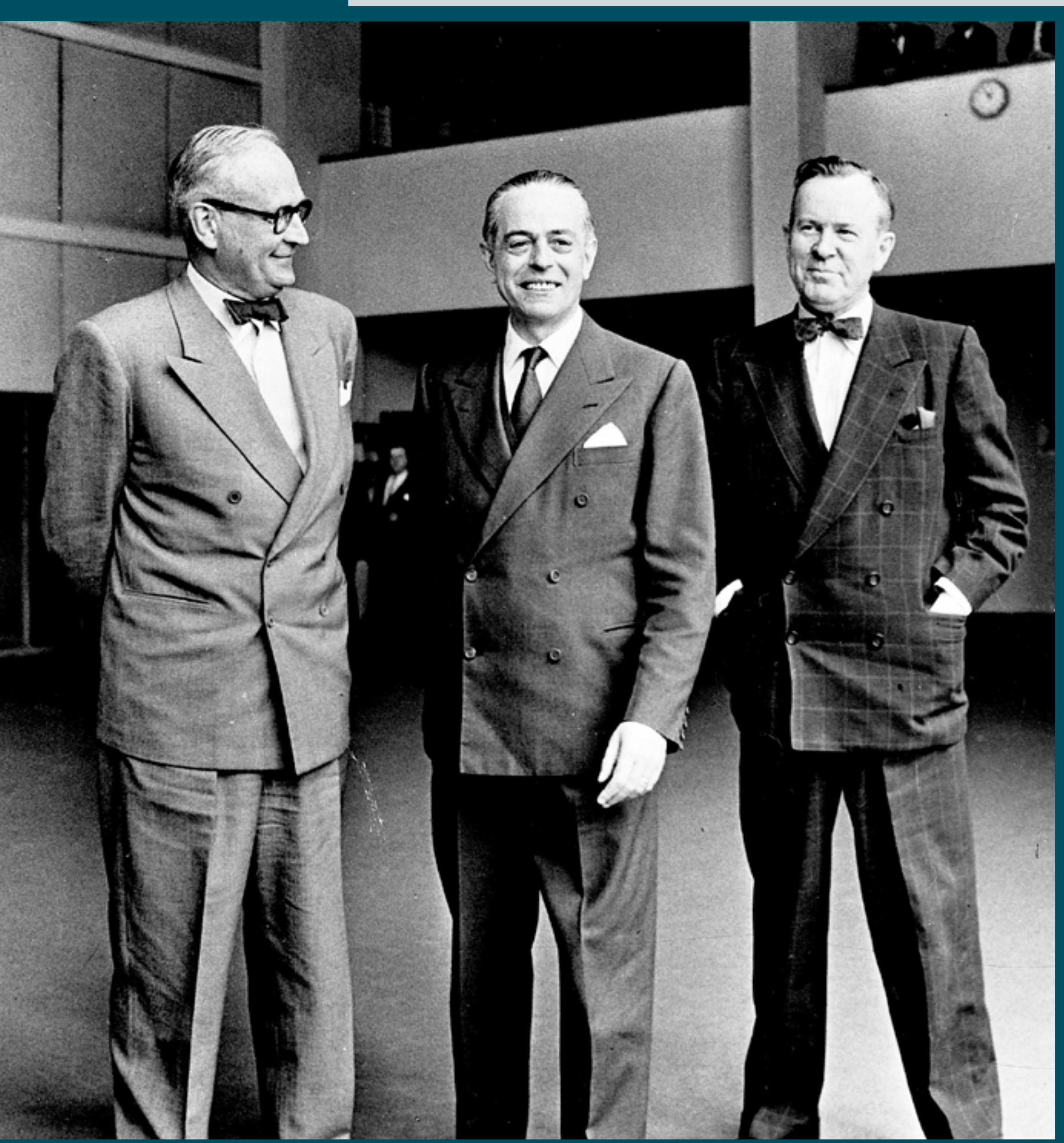


“I hope that non-member countries, as a result of this report, will also have a better understanding of our purely defensive aims and purposes; particularly, the fact that they are not exclusive to the members of the coalition, but do take into account the broader interests of the whole international community.”

Lester B. Pearson, December 12, 1956; (C-VR(56)71)

A handwritten signature of Lester B. Pearson in white ink on a dark teal background. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

THE OF THREE



On 5 May 1956, the North Atlantic Council appointed Halvard Lange, Gaetano Martino and Lester B. Pearson to lead the Committee on Non-Military Cooperation (also known as the “The Committee of Three” or “The Three Wise Men”).



The task of the Committee was to write a report that would examine and redefine the objectives and needs of the Alliance, making recommendations to strengthen its internal solidarity, cohesion and unity.



The “Three Wise Men” identified key areas where cooperation in dispute resolution was needed and suggested ways such cooperation could foment within the Atlantic Community:

- political co-operation;
- economic co-operation;
- cultural co-operation;
- co-operation in the information field;
- and
- organization and functions.

The Report of the Committee of Three on Non-Military Cooperation in NATO was officially accepted in December 1956.

REPORT THE WISE MEN

The Report made several recommendations, including the peaceful settlement of inter-member disputes, economic cooperation, scientific and technical cooperation, cultural cooperation and cooperation in the information field.



It also introduced a more cooperative approach to security issues and broadened the strategic framework within which the Alliance operated. It reinforced NATO's political role at a time when the Organization was hardening its military and strategic stance, advocating massive retaliation as a key element of its new strategy.



The Report was considered a major step forward in the development of NATO in the non-military field and, more broadly, in the development of political consultation between members of the Alliance.

“... [They] have been selected, not only for their own merits, but because there is a certain geographical balance between them. If we could get those three of our colleagues to be the three wise men and do this duty... we might make progress.”

Selwyn Lloyd, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, United Kingdom
May 5, 1956 (C-VR(56)22)