



NATO



INSURANCE FOR PEACE

UNITY IS STRENGTH

Peace can only be assured by maintaining the strength and unity of the democratic countries on both sides of the Atlantic. The failure by governments between the two world wars to co-ordinate their policies, share their resources and stand together against totalitarian threats and aggression was one of the principal causes of the 1939-1945 war, which Sir Winston Churchill has called "the unnecessary war." The forging of unity for the maintenance of peace is the basic aim of NATO.

DIVIDED the free countries of Europe would be unable to resist attack.

TOGETHER and with Canada and the United States of America, we represent an overwhelming force for peace which no other block of countries could risk attacking lightly.

WE HAVE THE MEN: The population of the NATO countries in Europe and North America is over 400 million. Each man is the heir to the freedoms won by his forebears. His determination to defend these freedoms is the greatest strength of the Atlantic Community of nations.

WE HAVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES: The Atlantic Community is endowed with great natural riches. It leads the world in the production of coal, oil, steel, iron and atomic energy.

WE HAVE THE INDUSTRY: The North Atlantic area includes the greatest industrialised nations in the world. Its workers have the highest output in the world. Our governments acknowledge the dignity of work and the right of each man to join with his fellows in free trade-unions for the collective defence of his interests. This is why the peoples of the Atlantic Community enjoy a higher living standard than the populations of the Communist countries.

WE HAVE THE STRENGTH: Since NATO's military organization started early in 1951, NATO's armed forces in Europe have increased more than three-fold in strength and effectiveness. We have now about 100 active and reserve divisions and about 6,000 military aircraft. We are now strong enough to make an enemy think twice before risking a third world war. We are moreover resolved to strengthen and improve our forces so as to convince any potential aggressor that an attack against us would end in total failure.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

What Is NATO?

NATO is short for NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. It is an association of 15 free and sovereign states bound together by the North Atlantic Treaty. NATO's aims are to preserve peace and to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area (see map inside). The 15 NATO countries are: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, German Federal Republic, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Is NATO Only Military?

NATO is more than a military alliance: it is a community of nations which have come together "to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, and the rule of law." That is why, even though defence had to have priority, co-operation within NATO extends beyond the military into the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

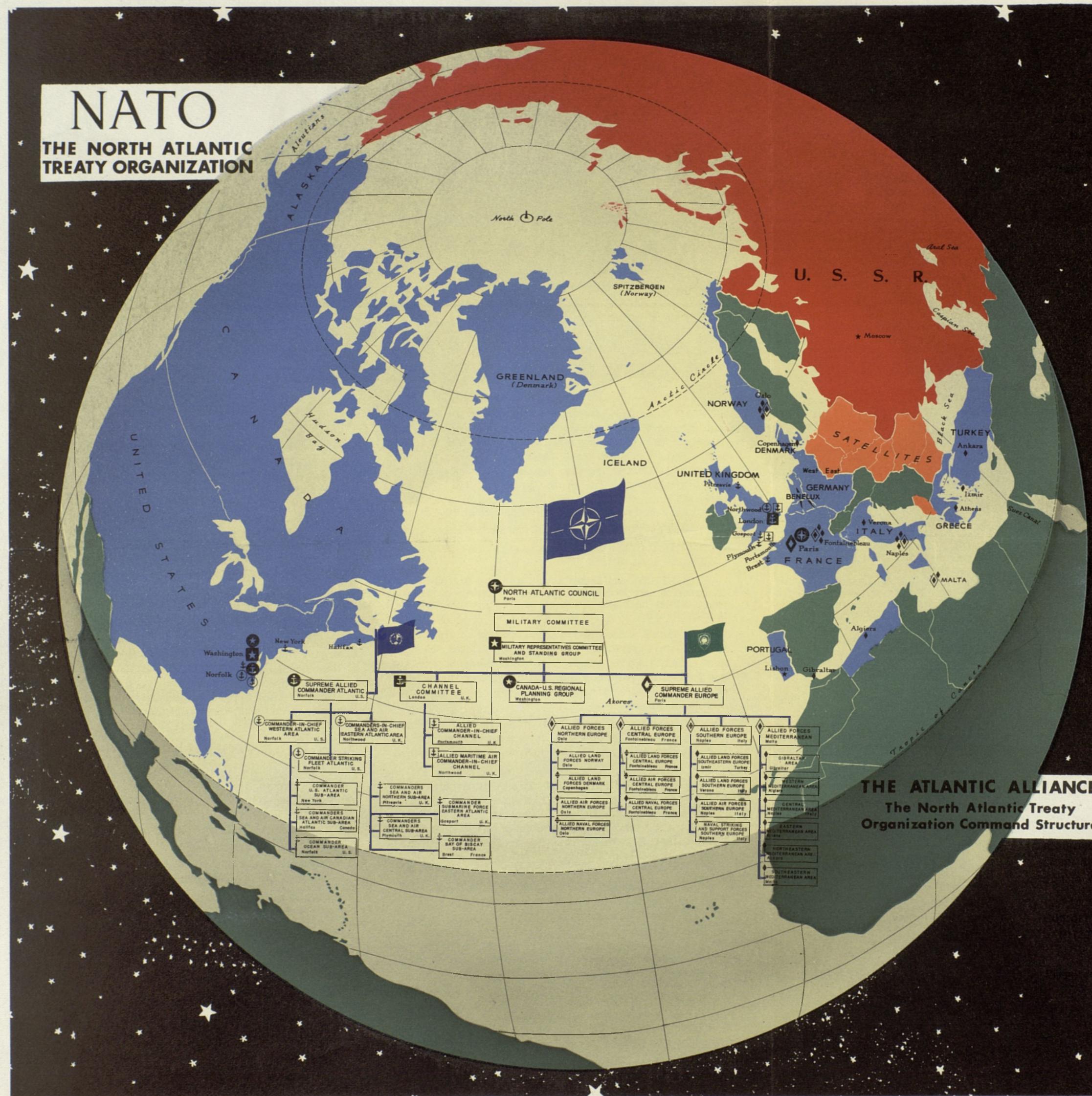
What Has NATO Achieved?

NATO HAS:

1. Stopped Soviet aggression in Western Europe by building up an armed defence force under central command.
2. Created a community of nations, co-operating on a permanent basis not only in the military but also in the political and economic spheres.
3. Laid the foundations of a common military organization which although not yet strong enough to guarantee complete security is sufficiently solid to show the Soviet leaders that they must think twice about trying to achieve world dominion by force.
4. Convinced the Soviets of Western determination to resist armed attack and therefore contributed more than anything else to the Russian adoption of a more reasonable attitude in international affairs.

NATO

THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION



THE CREATION OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY

The Background

At the end of World War II all the victors demobilised—except one.

The U.S.S.R. kept over 4,000,000 men under arms and increased its armaments production. The fourth five-year plan emphasised the heavy arms industry.

In 1949, when the North Atlantic Treaty was signed, the Western Allies had only the elements of 12 divisions in Europe, including their occupation forces in Germany, which were neither organised nor equipped for war, and 400 frontline aircraft.

In 1949, the U.S.S.R. had 175 divisions on a war footing. Of these, 22 were in Eastern European satellite countries and Western U.S.S.R. Russia had also 20,000 frontline aircraft and was building a great network of military airfields in Eastern Europe. The U.S.S.R. and the Eastern European countries were linked together by a network of treaties amounting to a powerful military alliance.

Soviet Strength—Then and Now

Since then the military strength of the Soviet bloc has grown considerably, for, although the Soviet forces are approximately the same size their effectiveness has been steadily increasing. Conscription is for three years and a rigorous training programme keeps the troops in a high state of preparedness. Four years ago, of Russia's 20,000 operational aircraft only half were jets and 9,000 propeller-driven. Today this ratio is reversed and nearly all are powered by jet engines. Russia's atomic weapons and guided missiles have also increased in power. Fifteen years ago the Soviet Navy was the seventh in the world: today it is the second largest, with more than 400 submarines.

Soviet Expansion

The U.S.S.R. was the only state to extend its territory through World War II. Since 1939 the U.S.S.R. has annexed Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and territories belonging formerly to Poland, Finland, Rumania, Germany, Czechoslovakia, China and Japan. Russia, under the shadow of the Red Army, installed Communist régimes in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Eastern Germany and in North Korea.

Soviet Subversion

The Soviet rulers fomented civil wars in Greece, China, Indo-China, Malaya and Burma. They threatened Persia and Turkey, Yugoslavia and Western Germany. They encouraged revolts and sabotage in the newly created republics of the Philippines and Indonesia and organized and supported in many countries treasonable acts disguised as workers', pacifist or nationalist movements. Their policy was "all mischief short of war."

Russia violated the letter and the spirit of international agreements, e.g. the Berlin blockade, the refusal for ten years to sign the Austrian State Treaty, the economic pillage of Eastern Germany.

By constant use of the veto in the Security Council, the U.S.S.R. tried to paralyse the United Nations. Russia has constantly talked of "peace," but "peace" at its own price, the subjection of all countries to the Soviet system—the peace of the prison or of the grave.

The West Faces Facts

By the time that the nations of Western Europe realised the extent of Soviet ambitions, the Red Army had extended its control over the greater part of the Eurasian land mass. Europe, however, was not entirely subjected, although there could be no doubt that this was Russia's aim. Otherwise, why did it not disband its 175 divisions? And what else could explain Russia's hate campaign against the West if it were not to prepare the Soviet peoples, and their Communist stooges in the West, for further aggression?

The West in Search of Security

The Western countries were driven to seek security by uniting their strength and resources. In March, 1948, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg signed the Brussels Treaty and laid the basis of a European defence organization.

These free Western countries did not have the manpower and resources necessary to defend Western Europe. Then, as in the past, the United States and Canada came to their aid and, in April, 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO was created.

The Spirit of NATO

NATO is a natural alliance. The North Atlantic ocean is no longer a barrier between two continents but the link between nations sharing the same ideals and interests. Two world wars, moreover, have shown that an attack against one of these nations was a threat to the security of the whole North Atlantic area. That is why in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty the NATO countries

"agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all; and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area."

NATO Up to Date

In 1955, NATO was complemented by the Western European Union (WEU), based on the 1948 Brussels Treaty now signed by Italy and the German Federal Republic. At the same time, the United Kingdom guaranteed to continue to retain on the European mainland four divisions and the Tactical Air Force and undertook not to remove these forces, except in extreme emergencies, against the wishes of the majority of the seven WEU countries.

NATO'S Two Aims

NATO has two aims: a short-term security aim—to prevent a third world war; and a long-term aim—to promote lasting political, economic and social ties between the 15 Atlantic Community countries.

Six years of experiment and progress have proved that NATO's two objectives are indivisible. Adequate defence depends on political and economic co-operation. NATO's long-term community aims are developing concurrently with the defence effort. United we shall succeed in preventing another world war. **NATO IS AN INSURANCE FOR PEACE.**