

NATO'S NEW ROLE

By the C N Diplomatic Correspondent

DURING the next six months diplomats, statesmen, and civil servants of 14 countries will be converging on Paris, making that city not merely the capital of France but the new capital of the grand alliance known as N.A.T.O.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, to give the alliance its full title, thus begins a new era of the utmost importance to Western Civilisation.

It is now clear that N.A.T.O. is a permanent force—not merely military in character but a power for peace with governmental departments of defence, finance, trade, and foreign policy, each prepared to carry on normal civilian affairs.

During the next few weeks the staffs and equipment of N.A.T.O. will be moved from London—which has been the temporary headquarters of the organisation—to Paris. Each country concerned has a delegation of about 20 people, so the transfer involves about 250, and in many instances their families.

Meanwhile, the new headquarters are being set up in Paris. Prefabricated offices, designed for the special needs of the delegates to the meetings of the United Nations at the Palais de Chaillot, will be removed from the grounds of the palais to the site of the permanent headquarters provided by the French Government.

The inclusion of civilian affairs is beginning to make the work of the organisation something like

that of a vast business undertaking.

The role of the new Secretary General could be compared to that of a general manager. Under him the separate agencies of N.A.T.O. will largely be merged. The Finance and Economic Board, for instance, and the one for Defence Production will be unified. It is part of the streamlining process to make for greater efficiency.

To assist the Secretary General in the new co-ordinated work of N.A.T.O. there will be branch managers, so to speak, who will look after particular problems of defence, trade, foreign affairs, communications, and other matters.

ALWAYS AT WORK

Instead of the Council of the N.A.T.O. countries meeting from time to time it will function all the time. Either Ministers or senior officials appointed by them will represent the countries.

Why, it might be asked, is it necessary to have N.A.T.O. as an entity separate from the European Defence Community—the subject of recent discussions with a view to a special pact?

Germany is still the biggest single reason for having to make these distinctions in the defence of Western civilisation, because she is not yet entirely acceptable to all the countries as a fully-fledged member of N.A.T.O. So Germany has been included in the group of countries forming the Defence Community—a decision that does not necessitate her membership of N.A.T.O.

Membership will come only when she has qualified for admission. On the other hand, all the countries associated with Germany in the European Defence Community are themselves members of N.A.T.O., which shows how closely linked the two bodies are.

NEW MEMBERS

Two more countries, Greece and Turkey, have recently been admitted to membership of N.A.T.O. While all the stress must necessarily remain on building adequate defence forces, this acquisition of strength to the organisation will help forward the programme to security.

The Council's latest pronouncement points out that for the time being the risk of aggression will continue; but, when security has been achieved, N.A.T.O. will be able to fulfil all those peaceful functions of an integrated community which are now seen to be developing.

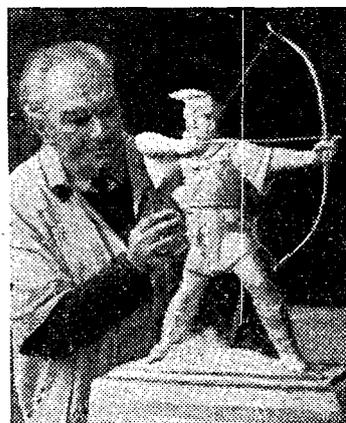
As Mr. Eden, Britain's Foreign Minister, says: "The big possibility of all the free countries of the West, including Germany, working together has been greatly increased—and that is what matters for the peace of the world."

FIRST AFRICAN PREMIER

For the first time in history the British Commonwealth is to have a native-born African as Prime Minister of one of its territories. Mr. Kwame Nkrumah of the Gold Coast is to change his title from Leader of the Government Business to that of Prime Minister.

This new title of responsibility will mean a great deal (writes a C N correspondent who was recently in the Gold Coast) to the millions who look to Mr. Nkrumah as a national leader. During his 12 months of office he has by steady work and calm bearing shown that he has qualities of leadership. He will preside over a cabinet of Africans and British in a room in the Castle of

Robin Hood returns



A 7-foot statue of Robin Hood is to be erected in front of Nottingham Castle. The sculptor, Mr. James A. Woodford, R.A., is seen at work on a model. Now turn to page 5 for scenes from a new film of Robin Hood.

Christiansborg, high above the Atlantic breakers on the shore of Accra.

Deep below this room are the dungeons where less than 200 years ago the slave traders kept their human merchandise before sending it across the Atlantic to America. Now descendants of those slaves are ruling the country of their birth.

It is another of those bloodless revolutions which mark the development of the British family of nations.

DESERTED VILLAGE

At a meeting of Oakham Rural Council, Colonel R. E. M. Heathcote raised the question as to whether he was serving on the council under false pretences.

For 25 years he has represented a Rutland hamlet, Martinthorpe, which has only one house, with a rateable value of £6. Now, the colonel explained, the house is empty, and he has no one to represent.

DUKE'S HOME FOUND

The sale of a factory and warehouse in the centre of Manchester has revealed it to be the 18th-century home of the Duke of Bridgewater, builder of the famous Bridgewater Canal.

The duke's coat-of-arms has been uncovered during cleaning operations in this five-storey building, which stands near the canal.

News From Everywhere

BRITAIN LEADS

Britain launched 261 merchant ships last year, more than a third of the world's output.

A manuscript thought to have been written by Chaucer in 1392 has been found at Cambridge.

Cheadle Hulme (Cheshire) Boy Scouts are to build an extension to their headquarters as a memorial to King George VI.

An oil refinery which will handle three million tons of oil a year is shortly to be built in Western Australia.

TEAM WORK

The De Havilland Engine Company of England and the General Electric Company of the United States have agreed to pool their knowledge and experience of gas turbine aircraft engines.

An American laundry firm is using soluble capsules which scent the washing.

The largest number of British cars ever shipped overseas in any month was reached in January, when 38,000 were exported. A new peak in value of just over £13,000,000 was also set up.

Six American machines, able to "handstitch" a jacket in ten minutes, have been installed at Leeds. They are the first to be seen in this country.

BRITISH ARE BEST

British motor-cycles—two Nortons and a Triumph—took the first three places in the 200-mile championship on a beach and road course at Daytona Beach, Florida.

Two climbing courses are to be held for Scouts of all nationalities at the Scout Chalet at Kandersteg, Switzerland; the first from July 13 to 23, the second from August 24 to September 3.

More than 2,500,000 passengers used United Kingdom airports in 1951, and for the first time London Airport handled more passengers than Northolt—796,000 as against 750,000.

Captain Carlsen, of Flying Enterprise fame, is getting a new ship this month. It is the freighter Noonday, 8258 tons.

YORKSHIRE MIRAGE

Reflections of church spires and trees were seen off Bridlington and Flamborough Head in a mirage which lasted nearly two hours.

After netting only 19 fish in a fortnight, the Lowestoft drifter Marborece found the first spring mackerel shoal in the Atlantic and brought in a catch of six tons.

Norwich police will patrol 21 miles of the Norfolk Broads by motor-boat this summer to help holidaymakers.

The French religious order of the Little Brothers of Charles de Foucauld have asked the Vatican authorities to be allowed to institute a floating monastery for work among French fishermen.

The world's largest ammonium sulphate fertiliser plant (built with British and American technical aid) has been opened at Sindri Bihar.

SHOT LANDS A FISH

When a Limerick farmer shot at a flying cormorant, a six-ounce trout fell at his feet from the bird's beak.

Croydon Town Council, in spite of protests, is to hold to its rule that homework must not be given to children under 11 in the town's primary schools.

Buildozers dug a 300-yard channel to low-water mark to allow the coaster Saint Kieran, 394 tons, to be refloated after being aground two months at Ardmore Point, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire.

WRIST RADIO

Radio engineers at Princeton, New Jersey, claim to have produced a device known as a Transistor which may lead to a wrist radio receiver working from power provided by body heat.

State grants of nearly £112,000,000 are to be given to Britain's universities during the five years.

The Treasury has agreed that the cost of admission tickets to the Olympic Games at Helsinki need not be deducted from the £25 basic travel allowance.

Kashmir Airlift

Continued from page 1

to bring water with which to top-up its radiator, they placed before it a bowl of milk and a truss of hay.

But they soon came to accept the airlift as part of their daily affairs.

"Today," says Captain Massey, "our passengers include yak drivers, pilgrims bound for Mecca, merchants, sometimes whole families with an incredible assortment of possessions from livestock to bags of flour."

Cargoes delivered range from a small steamroller to vegetables, steel girders to cattle. Over 12 million passenger-miles have been flown.

Old Soldier



At 84, C.S.M. George Murphy, D.S.M., formerly of the Irish Guards, does not need spectacles to sew on ribbons and stripes for his fellow Chelsea Pensioners.

MODEL HOUSES & SPEEDY

By Pam

DADDY SAID HE WOULD HELP ME MAKE A MODEL VILLAGE

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