



Declaration of Atlantic Unity, 1957

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnmal – Dómsmálaráðherra – Menntamálaráðherra – Bréf – Ladislav Cerych
– Henri Brugmans – *Circular Letter to the Signers of the Declaration* –

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

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UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Room 203 - 133 South 36th St.
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

COLLEGE OF EUROPE

BRUGES, BELGIUM
SECRETARIAT : Naaldenstr., 22A
BRUGES (Belgique) - Tél. 355.02

CONFERENCE ON NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

Bruges, June 14, 1957

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Mr. Bjarni BENEDIKTSSON,
Morgunbladid,
Austurstraeti, 8
Reykjavik.

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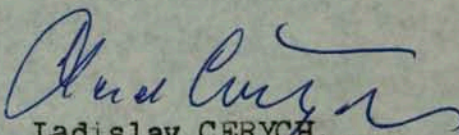
Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter of June 11, especially of course for your willingness to participate in our Conference. We shall keep you informed about all the important news concerning its preparation.

A bulletin containing reports and documentation, as well as statements of principles and matters to be discussed will be published from June and it will of course be sent to you. We shall welcome any comments you might make on the various points of this bulletin which thus could become a kind of preliminary discussion.

Thank you again for your kind collaboration

Yours faithfully,


Ladislav CERYCH,
Executive Secretary.

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Executive Secretary

Bruges July 18, 1957

Mr. Bjarni BENEDIKTSSON,
Morgunbladid
Reykjavik.
Iceland

Dear Sir,

European Steering Committee

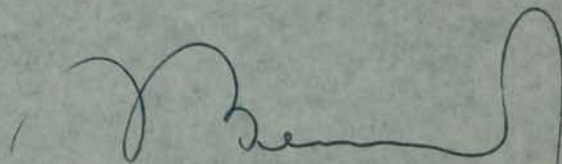
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Executive Secretary

You have certainly already received our Bulletin containing inter alia some of the reports which should be discussed by the Conference.

You have certainly noticed that among the discussion topics is the problem of the tensions between America and Europe. I would find it extremely valuable if you could contribute to this discussion by sending us in advance a short (3 to 5 pages) paper about the problem: "Anti-americanism in Iceland". It is in my opinion a very important point and an analysis of a certain anti-american mood which exists (or existed) in your country might help to explain and to clarify this subject.

I hope that this will not cause you too much trouble and I thank you in advance for your news.

Yours sincerely



Henri Brugmans
Rector of the Collège of Europe



DECLARATION OF ATLANTIC UNITY

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UNITED STATES SPONSORS

Will L. Clayton
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Walden Moore
Project Director

November 15, 1957

Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, M.P.
Althing
Reykjavik, Iceland

Dear Sir:

The present crisis demands that the Signers of the Declaration of Atlantic Unity make every possible effort to urge and to support effective measures in NATO to meet the increased Russian threat.

In June 1957 certain American, British, French and Canadian signers sent you a circular letter (copy enclosed) calling upon you to support vigorously the recommendations of the Committee of Three with your governments and political leaders.

You will be interested to learn that on August 7, 1957, the American Sponsors of the Declaration addressed a letter to President Eisenhower in which, in addition to urging implementation of the Report of the Committee of Three, they made three specific recommendations:

(1) That a special meeting be called of either the North Atlantic Ministerial Council or the Council of Permanent Representatives to concert policies for the September meeting of the United Nations.

(2) That President Eisenhower on an early suitable occasion devote one of his major speeches entirely to NATO. Such a speech could emphasize, in addition to the vital military basis of the alliance, the political, economic, social and cultural development of the Atlantic Community with special reference to the existing international situation.

(3) That prior to the tenth anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty (April 4, 1959), the President "invite the heads of the other fourteen NATO governments to meet....to agree on ways of prolonging, strengthening and improving the Treaty, the NATO organization, the Atlantic Community and particularly the prospects for world peace."

The plans recently announced for an intensive effort to rebuild the NATO alliance and more particularly for a meeting of heads of NATO governments in Paris in December are clearly in line with these recommendations.

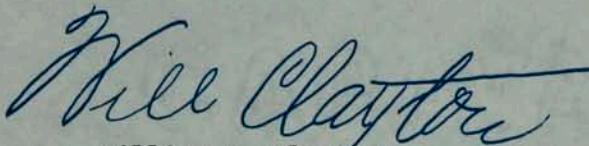
Recent events have simply underscored a situation which we Signers believed was certain to become extremely critical in some form at some time. Fortunately, these same developments have now created a similar sense of urgency in NATO chancelleries and in the public mind.

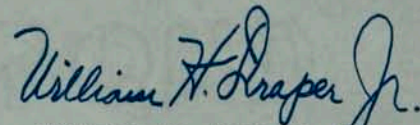
The free world can survive, if it acts together and in time. Bold steps must be taken to improve the military, atomic and scientific aspects of the Alliance. The Report of the Committee of Three should be fully implemented. Every possible means of strengthening the Alliance calls for earnest consideration.

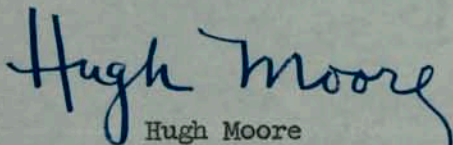
We ask as a matter of urgency that may involve our very survival that you either individually or in cooperation with other Signers, undertake immediately whatever steps you consider appropriate and effective in behalf of the principles of the Declaration of Atlantic Unity and of the suggestions set forth in the Circular Letter of June 1957.

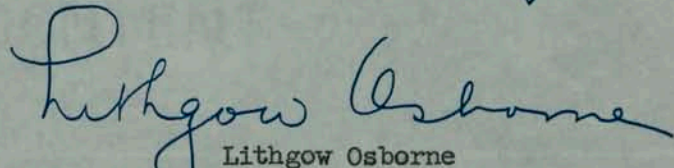
The NATO meeting in December may decide the future for you and for your children. It is only a month away.

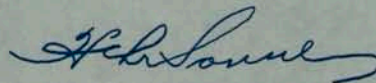
Yours very sincerely,


William L. Clayton


William H. Draper, Jr.


Hugh Moore


Lithgow Osborne


Hans Christian Sonne

28/9, 1957

Mr. Brugmans
Collège d'Europe
Bruges - Belgique

Dear Mr. Brugmans!

I thank you for your friendly letter of Sept. 19th. and the courteous reception we got at Bruges. The Conference was a great success on which I congratulate you. If I can in any way assist you in your future work it would be a great pleasure for me to do so because work for a greater cooperation inside the North Atlantic Community is one of the most urgent tasks of our times.

Yours sincerely

Bjarni Benediktsson

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Executive Secretary

September 19, 1957

Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson,
Haahlid 14,
Reykjavik,
Iceland

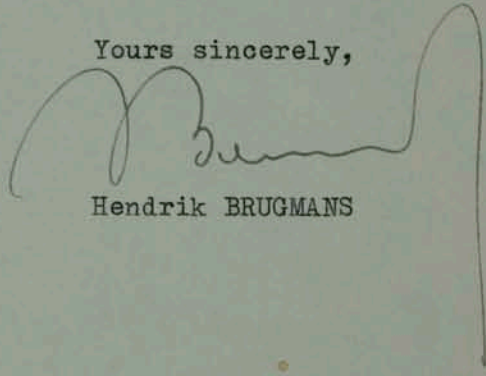
Dear Mr. Benediktsson,

On behalf of the Steering Committees of this Conference may I thank you most warmly for all that you have contributed towards assuring the measure of success which was achieved. I believe that all participants will have been encouraged by the spirit which prevailed throughout our discussions and the determination to carry on our task. The follow-up recommendations will be given the highest priority by those charged with continuing responsibility for the conduct of our work.

The effectiveness of the follow-up will depend to a great extent on the development of a wide personal exchange among participants with respect to future plans. Accordingly we will welcome any suggestions you may wish to make. You will be informed of plans and progress periodically. You will also receive in the near future various reports on the proceedings of the Conference.

Please accept my personal expression of gratitude for your valuable service as a member of Commission 4 and my assurance that we will do all we can to give effect to the resolve of the Conference.

Yours sincerely,



Hendrik BRUGMANS

RESOLUTION

Adopted unanimously by the Third NATO Parliamentarians' Conference
November 16, 1957:

This third annual conference of NATO parliamentarians

RECOGNIZING that effective unity among democratic nations must be based upon their peoples,

NOTING the efforts both of the NATO governments and of NATO parliamentarians to develop greater unity within the Atlantic Community,

BELIEVES that the present critical situation requires that their efforts should now be supplemented by a corresponding effort on the part of leading citizens of their countries,

INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee and Political Committee to arrange a meeting of leading citizens representative of the national communities and of those organizations whose co-operation would be valuable and appropriate for the convening in 1959, 10th year of the North Atlantic Treaty, of an Atlantic Congress comparable to the Hague Congress of 1948, and requests the Heads of Governments at their meeting in December 1957 to support this proposal,

RECOMMENDS that their governments, in consultation with the Standing Committee and Political Committee of the Conference, bring about, in accordance with the constitutional and governmental processes of their countries, a conference composed of leading representative citizens selected on a non-partisan basis and directed to convene as often as necessary in order to examine exhaustively and to recommend how greater co-operation and unity of purpose, as envisioned by the North Atlantic Treaty, within the Atlantic Community may best be developed,

PROPOSES that to fulfill this purpose the members of the conference should, as far as possible, be officially appointed but should act in accordance with their individual convictions and that the findings and recommendations both of the Congress and of the conference proposed be reported to the appropriate Committees of the NATO Parliamentarians' Conference, to the North Atlantic Council and to member governments for consideration and appropriate action in accordance with the constitutional processes of each member country.

OTTAWA, Ontario,
28th November, 1957.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

We are addressing you as Prime Minister, and also as a signer of The Declaration of Atlantic Unity.

The Atlantic Community has been shaken out of its complacency by the extraordinary scientific achievements of the Soviet Union. The signers of this letter do not regard the situation with either fear or despondency. On the contrary, we believe that the North Atlantic allies now have another chance -- perhaps the last -- to make the Atlantic Community a reality.

We feel that the objectives sought in The Declaration of Atlantic Unity, which you and two of your Cabinet colleagues signed, had, as their affirmative basis, the age-old hopes of men for a world in which law, order and justice were supreme.

Recent scientific developments are revolutionary in their implications. These developments must be matched by equally revolutionary changes in our thinking. But fear should not be the mainspring for action.

We are convinced that safety does not lie in the perpetuation of national rivalries, nor in the maintenance of certain outmoded manifestations of national sovereignty. Security can only be achieved by the nations of the alliance freely surrendering areas of their sovereignty for the greater benefit of all.

We believe that the more powerful nations of the North Atlantic alliance have hitherto considered themselves sufficiently strong to dispense with the inconvenience of any adventure into new and uncharted international relationships. It is possible that these nations would now be embarrassed to propose steps which they have previously brushed aside. In these circumstances, we believe that an opportunity and a duty will await the spokesman of Canada at next month's meeting of the NATO Council.

With the stage thus set for leadership, we urge that you seize the opportunity and accept the duty to propose to the leaders of other nations in NATO that the following measures be set in train at once:

1. The institution, pursuant to Article Two of the North Atlantic Treaty, of a comprehensive mutual programme for lowering tariffs, freeing currencies, and eliminating trade restrictions between all the NATO allies, so that our economies may be strengthened. It must not be forgotten that our defence can be no stronger than our economies.

2. The pooling of scientific knowledge and facilities, and the coordination of research among the NATO allies.
3. Consultations leading to the establishment of a supra-national Authority for the Atlantic Community, which will have jurisdiction only in those matters allotted to it, while preserving the national heritage of each member-nation.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. J.G. Diefenbaker, P.C., M.P.,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Circular Letter

June, 1957

To the Signers of The Declaration of Atlantic Unity:

You will recall the enclosed Declaration which you and 243 other leaders of nine NATO nations signed in 1954. Since that time leaders from Germany and Iceland have added their signatures and we hope soon to include the four other NATO members -- Greece, Turkey, Portugal and Luxembourg.

Since 1954 the signers and supporters of the Declaration both inside and outside their governments, have done much to implement its principles. A summary of developments in which they have played a significant role is attached as an appendix to this letter.

The recommendations of the Committee of Three (Foreign Ministers Lange, Martino and Pearson) were approved by the North Atlantic Ministerial Council on December 13, 1956, which called it "a major forward step in the development of NATO in the non-military field."

We concur in this view provided the report is implemented by our governments. We endorse the recommendations of the Committee of Three and urge our co-signers to the Declaration of Atlantic Unity to join us in giving them their active support with their respective governments and legislatures.

At the same time we call your attention to the following extracts from the introductory chapter of the Committee of Three Report: "North Atlantic political and economic cooperation, however, let alone unity, will not be brought about in a day or by a declaration, but by creating over the years and through a whole series of national acts and policies, the habits and traditions and precedents for such co-operation and unity This will not be the case, however, unless the member governments -- especially the more powerful ones -- are willing to work, to a much greater extent than hitherto, with and through NATO for more than purposes of collective military defense NATO must be used by its members, far more than it has been used, for sincere and genuine consultation and co-operation on questions of common concern. For this purpose, resolution is more important than resolutions; will than words It has not been difficult to make these recommendations. It will be far more difficult for the member governments to carry them into effect. This will require, on their part, the firm conviction that the transformation of the Atlantic Community into a vital and vigorous political reality is as important as any purely national purpose. It will require, above all, the will to carry this conviction into the realm of practical governmental policy."

It seems to us that we, the signers of the Declaration, are well fitted to initiate this task with our governments and legislators in our respective countries.

The rifts in the Atlantic Community during the past two years are too familiar to you all to require description here. Disputes between some members have embittered relations between them and paralyzed their will to cooperation. Some of these disputes have been taken outside NATO for settlement. Certain influential sections of opinion in several countries have expressed the desire to side-step their share in the burden of common defense and to trust in the dangerous idea of neutralism. Some member governments have declined to give adequate consideration to what their allies regard as their vital interests of national security or have taken sudden initiatives, affecting the whole alliance, without prior consultation.

We agree with the Committee of Three that "The moves toward Atlantic cooperation and European unity should be parallel and complementary, not competitive or conflicting."
Yet we agree profoundly with the Committee of Three that "No state however powerful, can guarantee its security and its welfare by national action alone," and we call upon all member governments to make NATO the center where Western policy as a whole is hammered out and globally implemented. Along this path lies the welfare and safety of us all. We therefore urge that you, our co-signers of the Declaration, give these proposals your full attention.
A great task of statesmanship is to rebuild the alliance on firmer foundations. There is no substitute.

In these dangerous times we call upon our fellow signers of the Declaration to support vigorously the recommendations of the Committee of Three including:

- a) "The discussion of problems collectively, in the early stages of policy formation, and before national positions become fixed."
- b) "Collective decisions" by the North Atlantic Council "on matters of common interest affecting the Alliance."
- c) The submission of disputes between NATO members "to good office procedures within the NATO framework before resorting to any other international agency."
- d) Continuous consultation on economic questions to insure "the greatest possible freedom in trade and payments and in the movement of manpower and long term capital."
- e) Improvement in the procedures of the North Atlantic Council and more responsible representation on the Permanent Council.
- f) Increased powers and responsibilities to the NATO Secretary General.
- g) Closer cooperation between NATO members in the cultural and information fields.

We also suggest your consideration of certain measures beyond the recommendations.

Included among these are:

- 1) Wholehearted support by governments for the NATO Parliamentary Conference to the end that it become an effective continuing body for NATO support by the elected representatives of the Atlantic peoples.
- 2) The proposal of some legislators from Canada, France and the United States for the calling of a conference of leading NATO citizens to explore all means of obtaining closer unity.

We agree with the Committee of Three that "The moves toward Atlantic cooperation and European unity should be parallel and complementary, not competitive or conflicting." At the same time we suggest that present dangers should make Atlantic Unity the highest priority with all our governments.

It is our profound conviction that along this path lies the welfare and safety of us all. We therefore ask that you, our co-signers of the Declaration, give these proposals your thoughtful consideration and, in so far as you agree with them, your active support.

Yours very sincerely,

s/ General William H. Draper, Jr.

s/ Henry Ford II

s/ Thomas K. Finletter

s/ Averell Harriman

s/ John Foster, Q.C., M.P.

s/ Sir Thomas Williamson, C.B.E.

s/ General Pierre Billotte

s/ Pierre Olivier Lapie

s/ Wishart McL. Robertson, P.C.

s/ Dr. Sidney Smith

At the same time we call your attention to the following chapter of the Committee of Three Report: "NATO cooperation, however, let alone unity, will not be brought about by creating over the years and through a series of treaties, the habits and traditions and precedents for a more powerful union -- are willing to work, in a rough and through NATO for more than purposes of collective consultation and co-operation on questions of common concern. For this purpose, resolution is more important than resolutions; will than words. It has not been difficult to make these recommendations. It will be far more difficult for the member governments to carry them into effect. This will require, on their part, the firm conviction that the transformation of the Atlantic Community into a vital and vigorous political reality is as important as any purely national purpose. It will require, above all, the will to carry this conviction into the realm of practical governmental policy."

It seems to us that we, the signers of the Declaration, are well fitted to initiate this task with our governments and legislatures in our respective countries.

The rifts in the Atlantic Community during the past few years are too familiar to you all to require description here. Disputes and even some hostile and embittered relations between them and paralyzed their will to cooperate. Some of these disputes have been taken outside NATO for settlement. Through official services or through several countries have expressed their doubts as to the ability to share in the burden of common defense and to trust in the cooperation of other nations. Some governments have declined to give support to the Declaration and that other nations of their own interests of national unity and to have taken other initiatives, affecting the whole Atlantic, without your active support.

DECLARATION OF ATLANTIC UNITY

Accomplishments May 1954 - December 1957

Summary

(NATO, governmental and legislative action in parenthesis)

1954

- May-Sept. Declaration drafted, sponsors and 244 signers secured in nine NATO countries.
- Oct. 4. Text of Declaration and list of signers released to press.
- Nov. 17. U.S. Sponsors gave dinner to leading legislators of nine NATO countries who agreed on plan to call a NATO Parliamentary Conference.
- Dec. 16. International delegation representing the signers presented the Declaration formally to NATO Council.

1955

- March Pamphlet published - 8,000 copies distributed. French Sponsors publish and distribute a French edition.
- April-July Director visited Washington, Ottawa, London, Paris, Brussels, Bonn, The Hague, Copenhagen and Oslo to help insure delegations to the NATO Parliamentary Conference. He explained the idea to the press in a number of countries and to the Conference on the Western Community at Oslo.
- July Director attended first NATO Parliamentary Conference in Paris. (All NATO members were represented by 200 legislators. Conference decided to meet each year and set up a permanent organization.)
- December (NATO Ministerial Council instructed Permanent Council to study increased non-military cooperation).

1956

- April (Secretary Dulles called for development of NATO into "the totality of its meaning".)
- May (NATO Ministerial Council set up the Committee of Three "to advise the Council on ways and means to improve and extend NATO cooperation in non-military fields.")
- July (U.S. Congress passed legislation making it a permanent member of NPC and providing for a delegation of 18 members each year.)
- July-Sept. Declaration Sponsors prepared 20 recommendations for implementation of the Declaration which were submitted by a delegation to the Committee of Three. Thirteen of these adopted in whole or in part in their report.

Summary (continued)

Nov. -Dec. Following Suez crisis Director visited London, Paris, Bonn and The Hague. Attended Second NATO Parliamentary Conference. (Leaders of the U.S. Senate were present at this Conference which debated methods of improving political consultation and military, economic and cultural cooperation among the Atlantic allies. Committees were appointed to study these subjects further). Sponsors and signers of the Declaration added in Iceland and Germany.

Dec. (NATO Ministerial Council adopted the Committee of Three Report but governments lagged in its implementation.)

1957

June Circular Letter sent to all signers calling for support of the Committee of Three Report, the NATO Parliamentary Conference and a citizens' conference "to explore all means of obtaining closer unity."

August U.S. Sponsors sent letter to President calling for: 1) settlement of NATO issues within NATO; 2) a major speech devoted to NATO; 3) a meeting of heads of NATO governments. Similar letters sent to the Prime Ministers of other NATO countries.

Sept. U.S. Sponsors conferred with State Department on these questions.

Aug. -Nov. Director visited Iceland, Britain, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, France, conferring with Foreign Ministers, foreign office officials, and legislators in support of above proposals. He was Chairman of the Committee on Institutional Framework at the Bruges Conference on the Atlantic Community and helped secure the support of Lord Ismay and Mr. Spaak, past and present Secretary Generals of NATO, for a meeting of heads of governments.

Oct. 25 (Eisenhower-Macmillan "Declaration of Common Purpose and Interdependence" calls for meeting of heads of NATO governments in Paris in December.)

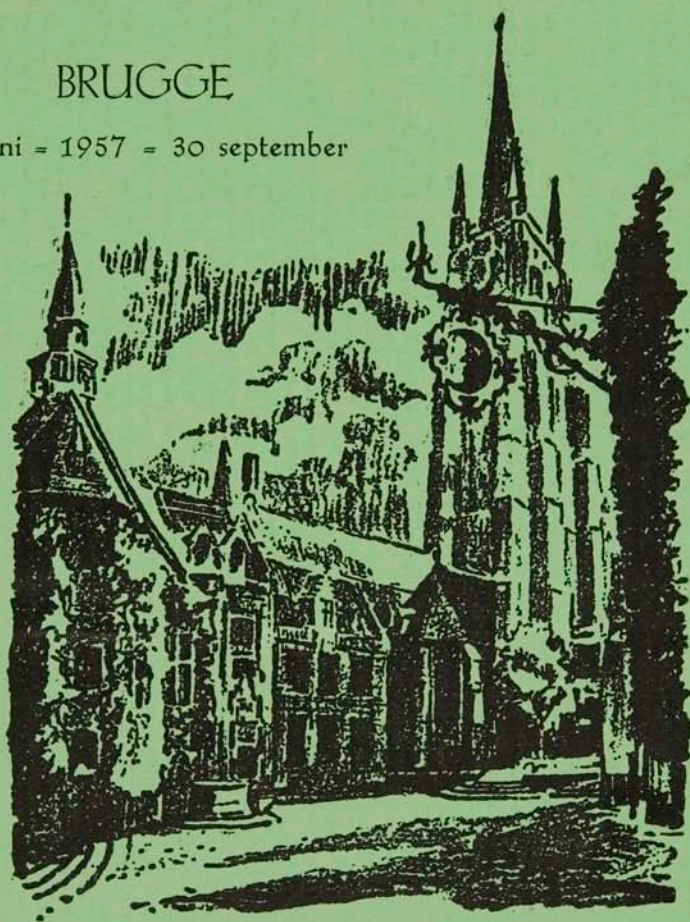
Nov. 11-16 (Third NATO Parliamentary Conference meets.) Director assisted in preparation of resolutions endorsing 1) an Atlantic Exploratory Conference; 2) an Atlantic Citizens' Congress; 3) an Atlantic Institute. Passed unanimously. He participated in European-American Committee meeting in Paris to set up Atlantic Institute. (Conference also passed important resolutions on scientific and technical, economic and political cooperation.)

Nov. 14 Second Circular Letter sent to signers of Declaration urging them to take initiative with their respective governments prior to the NATO "summit" conference December 16-18. Sponsors and signers of the Declaration added in Greece, Turkey and Luxembourg -- all NATO countries except Portugal.

Nov. -Dec. American, French, Canadian and other Sponsors submitted specific proposals for the "summit" meeting to their respective heads of governments. These proposals, and those of the NATO Parliamentary Conference, sent to the Sponsors in all countries with the request they take similar action.

BRUGGE

1 juni = 1957 = 30 september



CLICHÉ ESSO MARZINE

LICHT- EN KLANKSPEL

Lodewijk van Gruuthuse

PROGRAMMA

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS
of the
Conference
on
North Atlantic Community
and
CLOSING SPEECH
OF THE CONFERENCE
by **Paul-Henri Spaak**
Secretary-General of N.A.T.O.



BRUGES, 8th-14th SEPTEMBER 1957