

September, 1955
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Some International Movement for Atlantic Union Officers: l. to r. Vice President Frans van Cauwelaert, ex-President, Belgian National Assembly; President, Clarence K Steit, President, Federal Union, U.S.A., Vice President, Wishart McL. Robertson, ex-Speaker, Canadian Senate.



IMAU chairman Gen. Pierre Billotte, former French Defense Minister.



ORGANIZATION of the International Movement for Atlantic Union was completed at a meeting in Paris on July 3-4. It adopted a constitution and policy resolution and elected a Board of Directors which in turn elected the Movement's officers.

The Constitution makes the International Movement "a non-profit association for the public service" whose "purposes are 1) to educate the people of the Atlantic Community in the need and best methods of uniting the free in an effective, democratic, organic union with a view to advancing individual liberty, world peace and higher spiritual and material standards of life, and 2) to develop and to coordinate organized action to this end in the various countries of the Atlantic Community." It continues:

"The Movement shall have for members at this stage both organizations and individuals favoring its purposes; the former in countries where such organizations exist and the latter in other countries, pending the establishment there of sections or affiliates of this Movement."

It is governed by a Congress which shall meet "at least once in two years," and meanwhile by a Board of Directors elected by it, composed of not more than 40 members, which elects the officers and can elect Board members if the Congress does not fill all the seats. The Board may establish an Executive Committee, and also one for North American and one for European affairs, name honorary officers and form an Advisory Council of eminent citizens. The Board which was later elected has decided to set up all three of these bodies.

The resolution on current policy which was adopted after considerable discussion makes the number one aim

International Movement for Atlantic Union Constituted

of the Movement the implementation "forthwith" of the recommendation made by the NATO Parliamentarians Conference last November that their Governments call a conference of eminent, private citizens from their various countries to "examine exhaustively and recommend how greater unity . . . within the Atlantic Community may best be developed." The Senate Foreign Relations Committee in April unanimously approved a resolution fathered by its chairman, Senator Theodore F. Green, endorsing this proposal (see June FREEDOM & UNION pages 4-5).

The IMAU also gave its support to the Atlantic Congress which the Parliamentarians Conference are sponsoring in London next June to celebrate the 10th anniversary of NATO and mobilize public opinion in favor of strengthening it (see page 7).

The Movement also favors exploring "all possibilities for revising the North Atlantic Treaty" to improve political, economic, social and cultural relations, and meanwhile doing everything possible under the present treaty to harmonize the foreign policies of member nations, exchange technical information and advance common measures against the recession and economic warfare and for economic expansion.

Organizationally, the Movement's first objective is to get sections of it set up in those Atlantic nations where its supporters are not yet organized. Plans to this end are to be carried out by the Board. The Movement is not meant to duplicate or compete with such existing

organizations as the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) or those favoring European Union but to go beyond them.

Whereas the ATA aims primarily to build up public opinion in support of the North Atlantic Treaty as it stands and official NATO policies, the IMAU, while favoring this generally is concerned primarily with strengthening the machinery of the Atlantic Community, developing it into an effective, democratic Union. As for the European movement, the IMAU would supplement its work for continental integration by advancing oceanic union around the Atlantic and thus assuring the broader framework in which the European Unionists want to operate.

After approving the Constitution, the meeting elected a Board of 20 members. (See accompanying box. It includes three more who were later elected by the Board, P. F. Brundage, Alfred Max and Melvin Ryder.)

The Paris meeting grew out of one held on Sept. 12 last year at Bruges, Belgium, on the margin of the Conference on Atlantic Community then in session there. It was composed of some of the participants in that Conference who were Atlantic Unionists from various countries. They met at the invitation of Clarence Streit, following a suggestion by Maurice Allais. This group decided the time had come to create an International Movement for Atlantic Union, and set up a provisional committee, with General Pierre Billotte and Mr. Streit as co-presidents, to organize a meeting in 1958 to establish it defi-

nity. (See November 1957 FREEDOM & UNION, page 3.)

This committee issued invitations to the Paris meeting. Because of the French crisis in May, it was not certain the meeting would be held until about a fortnight ahead of the date set. This situation, together with unexpected Parliamentary and other developments in Belgium, Britain and Canada which prevented participants from those countries from coming, reduced the attendance to representatives from France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Iceland and the United States. The main national organizations represented by delegates included the Atlantic Union Committee and Federal Union Inc., of the U.S., the French *Movement four*

l'Union Atlantique and the German Union Atlantischer Federalisten.

With the French Movement as host, the meeting—together with a luncheon on July 3 and a reception on the 4th—was held in the Cercle Interallie, a club founded during World War I and situated on the rue Faubourg St. Honore a few numbers from the French 'White House' — the Palais de l'Elysee. The luncheon was marked by brilliant talks by two members of the French Movement — Raymond Aron, columnist of *Figaro* and author, and Edouard Bonnefous, a former Cabinet Minister.

In opening the meeting, General Billotte recalled its origin at Bruges. He noted that the dangers the Atlantic Community faced and the consequent need for Atlantic Union had been greatly augmented subsequently by the appearance of the first Sputnik in October, the persisting economic recession and the explosive situation in the Mideast. All this and more made it urgent that Atlantic Unionists in various countries should coordinate their efforts.

Mr. Streit pointed to reasons why such action would be necessary even if there were no Soviet danger. He saw little hope of the U.S. and British Governments providing the bold leadership Atlantic Union required, and feared that the domestic political situation he foresaw in the next year or so in both countries would lead to worse paralysis and consequent disaster. He saw more

hope in General de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer, but they faced "obvious" difficulties.

This situation, he held, made it essential that the Atlantic Union movement should be developed much more in western Europe. He explained that though there had been widespread response in 1939 to *Union Now*, and organizations had sprung up in Britain, France and elsewhere, the outbreak of the war had prevented the organization of an international movement and disorganized national committees in Europe. Moreover, then and thereafter, the original American organization, Federal Union, had been overloaded with the problems it faced in so vast a country as the U.S. It had concentrated



—British Information Service

IMAU Vice Chairman: Sir Hartley Shawcross, ex-Attorney General, Great Britain.

on them the more since European Atlantic Unionists had assured it that if the U.S. would call the proposed convention to explore Atlantic Union, there would be no difficulty in getting their countries to participate.

For these and other reasons the organization of an international movement for Atlantic Union had been delayed much too long already, Mr. Streit thought. Much too little had been done to organize national committees in Europe—with such notable exceptions as France and Britain. It was essential now to build up organizations throughout Western Europe at least as strong as those in the U.S.; this should be the International Movement's first goal.

Baron van Kessenich of The Neth-

erlands (see "Where Charlemagne's Spirit Lives On," May FREEDOM & UNION) suggested that it might be better to organize a Benelux committee for Atlantic Union rather than national ones there; this would help in breaking down nationalistic concepts, and might be extended, and tried in other regions. He stressed that he, and many others, favored both Atlantic and European Union, and saw no conflict between the two movements, but he thought it essential to make this clear to European Unionists.

His son, George—the youngest participant, a graduate student in America and Paris—saw Atlantic Union as a star to hitch one's wagon to, though the struggle to achieve it might well take more than a lifetime. He emphasized the need of keeping spiritual values always in mind, invoking Providence and avoiding all religious or racial bars.

Ambassador de Dampierre agreed with Baron van Kessenich as regards European Union; he felt its aim should be to lead toward Atlantic Union; those working for either were working for the other. He added that as regards the European Common Market, leading French economists saw no obstacle in it to the subsequent creation of a similar Atlantic market.

Dr. Rudolf Wagner thought that creation of the International Movement would be particularly helpful in the German Federal Republic, where much remained to be done. His own organization's activity centered in Bavaria; it was more than ready to cooperate with others in building up the widest and strongest movement in West Germany and in this connection he regretted especially that Dr. Jaeger of the Bonn section of the ATA, who had planned to attend this meeting, had been unable to come. He saw the need for clarifying the Movement's position toward the ATA as well as toward the European Movement.

The Atlantic Movement, Dr. Wagner strongly believed, should work for an Atlantic federation rather than intermediate steps toward unity; public opinion was too little prepared for the former and it would be much more difficult to achieve than the Federal Union of the 13 States. He doubted that the proposed exploratory convention could or should be a constituent assembly.

Mrs. Chase S. Osborn, Canadian-born

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