

Fechtele Lists NATO Gains On 7th Anniversary In Naples

By LOU STEIN
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NAPLES, April 4 — The North Atlantic Treaty Organization today has real strength, Adm. William M. Fechteler said today. Fechteler spoke at a Naples ceremony marking the 7th anniversary of the 15-nation pact.

Representatives of all 15 nations attended the colorful ceremony at Allied Forces Southern Europe headquarters outside Naples. In conjunction with the ceremony, 16 trees were planted before NATO headquarters here — one for each member nation and one for NATO itself.

Impressively assembled in front of AFSOUTH headquarters were 60 men representing all services, from France, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Britain and the United States.

Italy was represented by a platoon of Carabinieri dressed in their traditional national uniform and the U.S. by members of the Marine Corps.

Fechteler, commander-in-chief of AFSOUTH, headed the list of speakers at the ceremony which was attended by high-ranking civil and military officials.

Fechteler said much progress had

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Adm. WILLIAM M. FECHTELER

Fechteler

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been made in NATO since last year. He cited the addition of Germany to the ranks of NATO and the "more powerful addition to our ground force strength in Italy." He referred to the activation of the 5th Allied Tactical Air Force to bolster Western air might in Southern area.

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He warned, however, that the "threat of aggression is just as real today as it was seven years ago." "It is a wellknown tactic of the enemy to beguile us with smiles and foster our dissolution by specious peace talk," Fechteler said in reference to the current Communist let's-be-buddies campaign.

"We must not be deceived by such acts," Fechteler said. He added that we must "remain firm and strong in the face of a very clever adversary."

Addresses were also made by the senior national representatives at the NATO Southern Command.

Some 3,000 persons attending were given the opportunity to see the first "Honest John" rocket launcher ever brought to Naples.

The "Honest John" was assembled and mounted in six and one-half minutes by a U.S. artillery battery. It was sent down from Vicenza specifically for the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, Fechteler entertained the representatives at a reception at AFSOUTH headquarters.