

ATLANTIC CONGRESS:

The Queen went to Westminster on a great occasion in the history of N.A.T.O. The Atlantic Congress awaited her presence in Westminster Hall. Her Majesty was escorted at the entrance by the Lord Great Chamberlain, Lord Cholmondeley, and Mr. Hugh Nelson, Minister of Works. This year N.A.T.O. has its 10th anniversary, and from all member countries, members of their parliaments have come to the Congress.

As the great company watched the Queen and Duke taking their places, all reflected that but for NATO much of the Western world might now have been enslaved. The North Atlantic Alliance ensured that the Iron Curtain should not be pushed further west. But it is still true that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. The Queen asked all to remain seated while she spoke:-

"The Atlantic Community is the first real effort to give practical form to a growing desire of the peoples of this part of the world to work more closely together for their mutual security and benefit. There is an unmistakable longing among peace-loving people of the world to create a happier and an easier International atmosphere, but there is no simple guide to point the way. The success of this congress therefore, will depend on the simplicity of its recommendations and the clarity of its ideas.

And when an issue divides us be it great or small, be it a matter for Governments or technicians or just the play of public opinion - I hope that any who are disposed to quarrel may think twice, and may remember that our real aims are the same and make a determined attempt to reconcile our difference.

I am very glad to open the Atlantic Congress today, for I believe you can achieve great things for all mankind"....