

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE
ATLANTIC CONGRESS

5th June, 1959

These old walls have witnessed innumerable stirring events in our national history. Today they are sheltering a meeting which has a significance far beyond the boundaries of any one State. I welcome here today the representatives of the countries who are bound together in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. It is a particular pleasure for me to recall that I have been able to visit so many of your countries in recent years.

The Atlantic Community is an alliance of like-minded peoples and it is therefore something much more profound than a formal agreement between Governments and leaders.

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.

It is in the light of this new concept that I would ask you to frame your ideas and your resolutions. It is the ordinary people of this Atlantic Community who want a clear lead. 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.

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S.V.

S.V.

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~~You start your work here with two great advantages, for the Atlantic Community shares a common interest in security and progress, and a common European heritage. The many elements which make up this heritage are too complex to describe and too subtle to define. We cannot list them, but we know them when we meet them. However, there are two which have long been the main principles of enlightened European thought and action: respect for the freedom of the individual, for the dignity of human nature and a simple faith in God. These two principles show more clearly than anything else that the things which divide us are very small and unimportant compared to the things which unite us.~~

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These two principles also demonstrate to our fellow members of the Commonwealth and to all our friends throughout the world that the Atlantic Community is not an exclusive club, but itself belongs to that wider brotherhood which comprises all men of goodwill.

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My hope is that, when you disperse, the peoples of the Atlantic Community will be one step nearer to a practical system of co-operation. 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 differences. HJ

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This congress already bears the seeds of success, and for this, credit is due to those who have organised this meeting and have brought such a wide and representative gathering together in these historic surroundings.

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

Atkinson

ATLANTIC CONGRESS, LONDON, 1959

OPENING CEREMONY IN WESTMINSTER HALL

Friday, 5th June, 1959

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

1. 9.15 a.m. ARRIVAL

ENTRANCE to Westminster Hall will be by invitation only by the NORTH DOOR, New Palace Yard, from 9.15 a.m. until 9.55 a.m. when the North Door will be closed.

There will be no parking in New Palace Yard, other than by Members of Parliament. Guests arriving by car or bus will be set down at the NORTH DOOR and vehicles will then immediately depart to Car Park under:-

Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Ministers, etc.
(Blue Label)

- OLD PALACE YARD

Other Guests

- MILLBANK and SIDE STREETS south of Old Palace Yard under Police direction.

2. SEATING

(a) Members of the Diplomatic Corps, NATO Ambassadors, Ministers, etc. and their Ladies; Peers and Peeresses and Life Peeresses; Members of Parliament and their Ladies (Blue Cards)

- FRONT BLOCK B
BLUE BLOCK

(b) Officers and Members of National Committees and their Ladies (Red Cards)

- FRONT BLOCK C
RED BLOCK

(c) Delegates and other Guests and their Ladies will occupy remaining seats in order of arrival

- ALL OTHER SEATS IN BLOCKS B, C, D, E and F.

Ushers will be in charge of all Blocks, and will assist guests to their seats.

3. 9.20 a.m.

The Band of the Welsh Guards begin their programme of music.

4. 9.55 a.m. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

a) The North Door is closed.

10.00 a.m.

b) Entry of the State Trumpeters, the Guards of the Honourable Corps of the Gentlemen-at-Arms and Her Majesty's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard, who will enter by the NORTH Door proceeding by way of the Central Aisle to their respective positions on the balcony behind the War Memorial and on the main steps.

10.10 a.m.

Individuals taking part in the processions (see below) will enter the building by the Members' Entrance and assemble in the Members' Lobby. Processions will then enter Westminster Hall by the East Door in the following order, and proceed by way of the Central Aisle and the main steps to the steps leading into St. Stephen's Hall:-

- GROUP I (Representatives of National Delegations (14)
(Chairman of the U.K. Committee
(Patron of the U.K. Committee
- GROUP II (Members of the Atlantic Congress Preparatory
Committee (7)
(Mr. Finn Moe
(President of the North Atlantic Council
(President of the Atlantic Congress
- GROUP III (Senator Robertson
(Mr. Paul van Zeeland
(Admiral Jerauld Wright
(General Lauris Norstad
(Monsieur Paul-Henri Spaak
- GROUP IV (Leader of the Liberal Party
(Leader of the Liberal Party, House of Lords
(Leader of the Labour Party, House of Lords
(Leader of the House of Lords
(Foreign Secretary
(Leader of the Opposition
(Home Secretary
(The Prime Minister
(The Speaker
(The Lord Chancellor

Groups will be accompanied by Escorts, as under, and will move with an interval of ten paces between Groups.

- Escort I)
- Escort II) To be nominated
- Escort III)
- Escort IV)

5. 10.25 a.m.

- a) A fanfare of trumpets by the State Trumpeters will herald the arrival of Her Majesty The Queen at St. Stephen's Entrance, when the whole company will rise.
- b) Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, are met by the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Minister of Works.
- c) On Her Majesty's entering through the glass doors leading into Westminster Hall, she will be met by Sir Thomas Dugdale, Chairman of the Host Committee of the Atlantic Congress and Mr. J.J. Fens, President of the Atlantic Congress.
- d) Her Majesty will proceed to her position in front of the War Memorial, facing down the Hall. The Lord Great Chamberlain, the Minister of Works, Sir Thomas Dugdale, Mr. J.J. Fens and Her Majesty's suite will take up positions behind Her Majesty. The National Anthem will be played.

- e) After the National Anthem the following will be presented to Her Majesty and after presentation, will proceed to their seats on the lower platform of the main steps:-

The Lord Chancellor
The Prime Minister
The Speaker
The Home Secretary
Leader of the Opposition
The Foreign Secretary
Leader of the Liberal Party
Leader of the House of Lords
Leader of the Labour Party, House of Lords
Leader of the Liberal Party, House of Lords
President of the North Atlantic Council
Monsieur Spaak
General Norstad
Admiral Wright
Senator Robertson
Mr. Finn Moe
Members of the Atlantic Congress Preparatory
Patron of the U.K. Committee Committee
Representatives of National Delegations

- f) On conclusion of the presentations, Her Majesty and those mentioned in paragraph 5 (d) above will take their seats on the lower platform of the main steps.
- for seating plan, see Plan A attached -
- g) The whole company will then be seated.

6. 10.40 a.m. The President of the Atlantic Congress will invite Her Majesty to declare the Congress open.
7. 10.44 a.m. Her Majesty's Speech.
8. 10.54 a.m. The Prime Minister's Speech.
9. 11.00 a.m. On conclusion of the Prime Minister's Speech, Her Majesty will rise and a fanfare of trumpets will be sounded, to be followed by the National Anthem.

10. DEPARTURE a) The North Door of Westminster Hall will be opened.
- b) Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. The Prince Philip, escorted by the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Minister of Works and accompanied by the Lord Chancellor, the Speaker, the Prime Minister and the President of the Atlantic Congress, will move down the Central Aisle of the Hall to the North Door.
- c) As Her Majesty leaves the Hall, a final fanfare of trumpets will be sounded.

10. (cont.)

- d) After the departure of Her Majesty, guests invited to the Lord Chancellor's and the Speaker's Reception in the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords will proceed thither by way of St. Stephen's Hall, the Central Lobby and the West Division Lobby of the House of Lords, in the following order:-
- i) The Platform party;
 - ii) Members of the Diplomatic Corps and NATO Ambassadors, Ministers and their Ladies, Peers and Peeresses and Life Peeresses, Members of Parliament and their Ladies;
 - iii) Officers and Members of National Committees and their Ladies;
 - iv) Delegates and other guests and their Ladies.
- e) Other guests will leave by the North Door.

11.

DRESS

Morning dress, uniform or dark lounge suit.

P L A N " A "

ROW C

ROW B

ROW A

1		(U.S.A.)
2		(Portugal)
3	Dr. Hans Nord	(Netherlands)
4		(Italy)
5	Mr. C. Rodopoulos	(Greece)
6	Mr. J.P. Palewski	(France)
7	Mr. H.F. Jones	(Canada)

1	Leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons
2	Brig. General Berendsen
3	General Béthouart
4	Mr. Wayne Hays
5	Mr. Paul van Zeeland
6	Mr. George Brown, M.P.
7	Mr. Frans van Cauwelaert
8	Equerry-in-Waiting

1	Minister of Works
2	Sir Thomas Dugdale (Chairman of UK Committee)
3	Admiral Wright
4	The Foreign Secretary
5	Mr. Finn Moe
6	Leader of the Opposition
7	The Home Secretary (and Leader of the House)
8	Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak
9	The Speaker
10	The Prime Minister

H.R.H. The Prince Philip

H.M. The Queen

8		(Belgium)
9		(Denmark)
10		(Germany)
11		(Iceland)
12	Mr. R. Fandel	(Luxembourg)
13	Mr. N. Langhelle	(Norway)
14	General Cebesoy	(Turkey)

9	Private Secretary to H.M. The Queen
10	Lady-in-Waiting to H.M. The Queen
11	Mr. Eric Johnston
12	Sir A. Fleck (Treasurer UK C'ttee)
13	Senator Estes Kefauver
14	Mr. Geoffrey de Freitas, M.P. (Treasurer of the N.P.C.)
15	Mr. Lewis Douglas
16	Leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Lords

11	President of the Atlantic Congress (Mr. J.J. Fens)
12	The Lord Chancellor
13	Chairman of the North Atlantic Council (Dr. J.M.A.H. Lams)
14	Leader of the House of Lords
15	Senator Robertson
16	Leader of the Labour Party, House of Lords
17	The Minister of Defence
18	General Norstad
19	Patron of the UK Committee (Earl Attlee)
20	Lord Great Chamberlain

Row C: Nos. 1 - 14 = Representatives of National Delegations