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See Corr. following

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS
INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL RELATING TO NATO

Note by the Portuguese Delegation

The Portuguese population recognises the need to build up the defences of the Western countries. It is therefore unnecessary for the Government to pursue an information policy with regard to NATO as an organization: the Atlantic Treaty was readily accepted by Portuguese public opinion, both at parliamentary level (only three Deputies voted against its ratification), and - with very few exceptions - in the Press.

2. Nevertheless, over and above the daily news items (generally expanded) disseminated by the papers and by Radio, a number of points are worthy of special mention as having contributed towards the public's fuller knowledge of the subject. These include:

(a) The Ninth Session of the North Atlantic Council, held in Lisbon in February 1952, which was the occasion for many wireless programmes devoted to NATO and long articles on the Organization. Advantage was taken of this event to display large numbers of NATO posters bearing the slogan: "Unity of the Free Nations - Guarantee of World Peace".

(b) To mark NATO's third anniversary, the Portuguese Post Office issued a series of special stamps, still in current use, comprising the denominations in most general demand.

(c) NATO's third and fourth anniversaries were celebrated by appropriate ceremonies at which speeches were made by the Foreign Minister. Wide Press and Radio publicity was given to these speeches and ceremonies.

(d) In commemoration of its foundation, the Faculty of Law of Lisbon University offered a prize for the best study on "Portugal and the Atlantic Treaty".

(e) The "Atlantic Anthem", written by the Portuguese composer José Ludovice, has been recorded and widely distributed.

(f) A film on Portugal is now in production, as one of the "Know your Allies" series. A documentary film on NATO, which has been shown in several of the largest cinemas in Portugal, has been received with great interest and has frequently aroused the enthusiastic applause of the audience.

(g) Great interest has also been shown in the exchange of journalists under NATO auspices. Tours which included Portugal seem to have been highly successful.

(h) The Press and Radio have given wide publicity to the work of the Organization, to NATO press conferences, particularly those held by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister on their return from the Ministerial Sessions of the North Atlantic Council, and to the visits of the political and military leaders of the Organization, such as Lord Ismay, Generals Eisenhower, Ridgway and Gruenther, Field-Marshal Montgomery, Admiral McCormick, etc.

(i) Encouragement has been given to activities designed to develop the idea of the Atlantic Community. Thus, in November 1953, Mr. John Eppstein, Secretary to the Atlantic Committee in London, gave several lectures in Portugal, including one at the Faculty of Law of Lisbon University and another at the Arts Faculty of Coimbra University.

(j) The handbook issued by NATO in 1953 has been widely distributed, particularly in the principal universities and the military academies.

3. In addition to these measures, it should be borne in mind that a vigorous anti-communist drive has been conducted for many years in the Press and on the Radio, through lectures, posters and leaflets, by several private or unofficial bodies. As a result, the only political groups whose programmes included opposition to NATO and its plans for the common defence of the Free World, during the parliamentary elections of November 1953, were those (such as the so-called "National Democratic Movement") with definitely Communist leanings.

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