

1978

NATO SECRET

DPA/67/47

21st February, 1967.

To : Secretary General  
cc. Deputy Secretary General  
Acting DSG/ASG for Economics & Finance  
A.S.G. for F.I.A.I.  
A.S.G. for Scientific Affairs  
Executive Secretary  
Directeur du Cabinet

From : A.S.G. for Political Affairs

Subject : Background note on the forthcoming Council discussion on 22nd February, 1967 -  
"Future Tasks of the Alliance"

There are in principle four possibilities as to what the Council will do with the draft decision prepared last week. If they reject the decision, or postpone it, or try to modify it, a new situation would be created which you presumably may wish to consider in the light of the circumstances. If, on the other hand, the Council accept the draft decision, you may wish to bear in mind certain procedural points.

2. It is presumed that there will be a general wish to have the Special Group meet as soon as possible. It would not seem that the Council itself will be called upon next Wednesday to give any further directions either on procedure or on substance to the Special Group.

3. However, we cannot exclude that one or more Permanent Representatives will ask you to draw up a kind of consolidated paper, amalgamating the ideas expressed in your PO/67/89, with the numerous and wide-ranging ideas expressed in the Council meeting of 15th February.

4. I am inclined to think that such a consolidated paper is unnecessary and, in certain respects, even undesirable. As you will have seen from my paper DPA/67/45 of today's date, which lists the substantive issues mentioned in the discussion of 15th February, many of these ideas are mutually contradictory or contradictory to the suggestions contained in your PO.

As far as the discussions of the Special Group are concerned, these contradictions are all to the good and may form a stimulating factor. (By analogy with what happens in the usual ad hoc Experts' Groups, the Special Group could base its work on a number of papers which are already available; viz., your PO, the circulated statements of the British, the Belgians and the Germans; and, finally, the Verbatim Record of 15th February.)

5. If, however, the request were made to amalgamate and harmonise these various contradictory ideas in one consolidated paper, much of the impetus for the Group's discussion would be lost. In fact, the first step would be made on the road to an amorphous agreed document of which NATO history has already seen too many.

6. My conclusion is therefore that such a request from Permanent Representatives should be resisted.

7. In these circumstances, you may wish to introduce the discussion of tomorrow by a simple statement, the text of which is attached.

DRAFT TEXT OF AN OPENING STATEMENT OF THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL ON ITEM II, FUTURE TASKS  
OF THE ALLIANCE

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Council Meeting of Wednesday, 22nd February, 1967

I am now going to say:

You will recall that the Council, at its meeting of 15th February 1967, agreed unanimously to discuss my summing-up of their discussion as a draft decision at today's meeting.

I hope that all Delegations are now in the possession of the necessary instructions to arrive at a decision as suggested in the five points of my summing-up.

If in fact we could do so today, the only other business to be settled would be to agree on a date when the open-ended group of representatives, designated by Governments, could meet under my chairmanship.

May I then first go round the table and ask Delegations whether they are in a position to take a decision today?