

46.367 (conf)

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FUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE

Working Paper

I submit herewith, as a contribution to the discussions and decisions of the Special Group at its forthcoming meeting of Monday, 13th March 1967, the following draft work programme. This programme takes into account the points made in discussions of the Special Group on 6th March and in the various papers submitted by certain Delegations on that occasion or subsequently.

I - SUBJECTS

1. Developments in the foreign policy of the USSR and East European countries; their consequences for the Alliance; the impact of the Alliance upon the foreign policy of the USSR and East European countries.
2. General political aims of the Alliance in East-West relations; Allied views of the purpose and practice of détente; European security and the German problem; the nature of a European settlement; the role of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy in the quest for peace.
3. Free Europe and its specific contribution to the aims of the Alliance: possibilities of inter-European cooperation within the Alliance; the relations of European member countries with the United States and Canada; possibilities of strengthening the bonds between Alliance countries generally; the ideological basis and unity of the Alliance.

4. General defensive policy of the Alliance: evolution of collective and regional security; principles governing the strategy of the Alliance and the level and deployment of forces; effects of various proposals - arms control and disarmament; balanced reduction of forces; nuclear arrangements - on the balance of power.
5. The relations of the Alliance with regions outside the Treaty area and its responsibilities towards world order generally.
6. The consultative process in NATO (political, military, nuclear); past suggestions and present achievements; its range, purpose and limitations; the problem of commitment.
7. The image of the Alliance in a sociologically changing public opinion: presentation of the role and action of the Alliance, including the present meaning of key terms (detente, threat, balance of power); the presentation of the present study; possible association of outside organisations and individuals, including Parliamentarians.

Remarks:

The subjects indicate a broad field of work for each sub-group. It is envisaged that once the sub-groups are constituted, they will themselves formulate lists of specific questions. For this reason, I have not formulated any such questions in this draft programme.

II - ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES

The Special Group, composed of Government representatives and presided by the Secretary General, is responsible for the preparation of the exercise. In other terms, the Special Group constitutes a permanent steering committee. To carry out its task, the Group should be composed of members who are well informed of the problems currently before the Alliance; they may be assisted by experts from capitals as required. The members of the Group, who most of the time will be the Permanent Representatives, should draw up a general work programme and follow the progress of the various studies. It will be their particular concern to coordinate these various studies with each other and with the normal work of the Alliance. To achieve these ends, the Group will meet whenever the Chairman or one of its members considers it necessary.

It is, I believe, generally agreed that a number of sub-groups will be created to work on each of the above mentioned subjects. These sub-groups are open to all members of the Alliance and the International Secretariat. To facilitate their work, it is suggested that the presentation of each subject be entrusted to a national Delegation.

To make this initial presentation, the national Delegation concerned should select a person who is particularly well informed of the subject in question and preferably well-known. ~~This person should be the in-charge of documents and study such documents as Delegations or the Secretary General may submit to the sub-group.~~ It is of course understood that the working document presented by the rapporteur will commit neither the sub-group nor the Special Group. ↗

Delegations and the Secretary-General may submit to the sub-groups such documents as they think necessary and useful contributions

*The sub-groups*NATO CONFIDENTIAL

The sub-groups will be responsible for formulating the specific questions resulting from their studies. They will ~~also~~ examine whether questions should be put to outside organizations or individuals, and, if so, make proposals to the Special Group as to whom and in what manner these questions should be put.

It is understood that the International Secretariat will be responsible for the preparation of the final reports of each of the sub-groups. It is equally understood that the representatives in each of the sub-groups speak on a personal basis only and do not commit their Governments at this stage of the exercise. Finally, it is agreed that no records shall be kept of these meetings.

III - INTERIM REPORT TO MINISTERS

In order to prepare the interim report to be submitted to Ministers in June, the Special Group should meet in the course of May at a high political level and examine the progress achieved and, if possible, indicate the elements to be incorporated in this report. To be useful, this meeting of the Special Group should last more than one day.

However, in view of the time available, some of the studies may not be concluded before the June meeting of Ministers. If this would prove to be true, both the synthesis of these studies and the definition of the future tasks of the Alliance will be the principal objects of our attention in the second half of the year. In these circumstances, the Special Group may feel that the interim report to be submitted to Ministers in June should have the character of a brief progress report, to which may possibly be annexed such studies as may be available.