

18th April, 1967
(4.30 p.m.)

NATO CONFIDENTIAL

Meeting of the Secretary General with the
Rapporteurs of the sub-groups.

Mr. Spaak said that the sub-groups could not limit themselves to the subjects assigned to them and gave some examples. This point of view was shared by the others, and it was suggested that the Secretary General should co-ordinate the work of the sub-groups. The Secretary General expressed his agreement, recognising that the sub-groups could not be strictly limited to their own particular subjects. As an example, he mentioned the idea of Europe - the conception of Europe may have some bearing, not only on sub-group 2 but also on sub-group 1. The overlapping was unavoidable, but care should be taken to see that major contradictions between the various sub-groups did not emerge.

As far as the timetable was concerned, the Secretary General emphasised that 15th May was not a deadline, but that it was desirable that a progress report be available at that time. As the sub-groups could not proceed very quickly, there might be a progress report for the 20th May in which the state of the discussion might be reflected. Of course, the 4th sub-group would be meeting on 23rd ~~April~~ ^{May} to discuss the substantive questions, so that they may not have a very far-reaching report for the 20th May.

There was an exchange of opinions about the nature of the questionnaires. It was agreed that the questionnaires are an instrument of work and that the questions were not meant to be put necessarily to the governments. The representatives in the sub-groups should have the maximum of freedom.

It was decided that there will be a meeting of the five Rapporteurs on 17th May, at 3.30 p.m. and that the sub-groups would meet towards the end of May with the Rapporteurs, and early in June, in order to consider the report to be sent to the capitals for approval.
