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NATO CONFIDENTIALFUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCEWorking Paper

I submit herewith, as a contribution to the discussions and decisions of the Special Group at its forthcoming meeting of Friday, 17th March 1967, the following draft work programme. This programme is based on the Resolution of Ministers of 16th December 1966 (C-M(66)145) and the Council Resolution of 22nd February 1967 (C-M(67)11); it takes into account the points made in discussions of the Special Group on 6th and 13th March and in the various papers submitted by certain Delegations.

The subjects defined below indicate a broad field of work for each sub-group. The definition of these subjects is not of course a rigid one; nor is this list a limitative or exhaustive one.

I. SUBJECTS

1. East/West Relations

- a) Analysis of Soviet foreign policy against the background of changes in the Soviet Union and in Eastern European countries.
[Impact of the Alliance upon the foreign policy of the USSR and East European countries.]
- b) General political aims of the Alliance in East/West relations: European security; the German problem; the nature of a European settlement.

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Alternative version for subject "East/West Relations"

The general political aims of the Alliance in East/West relations in the light of an analysis of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and of the Eastern European countries: European security, the German problem, the nature of a European settlement.

2. Inter-Allied Relations

The possibilities of a specific contribution of the European member countries to the aims of the Alliance; possibilities of inter-European cooperation within the Alliance; long and short term consequences of the unification of Europe; possibilities of strengthening the bonds between Alliance countries generally; the ideological basis and unity of the Alliance.

3. 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.

4. Developments in regions outside the NATO area.

These subjects will be dealt with by the four sub-groups discussed below. Once these sub-groups are constituted, they may of course further refine the definition of the subjects and, if they so desire, formulate them as questions. They are also authorised to request existing bodies of the Alliance to carry out special tasks, a possibility which may be useful particularly in connection with subject No. 4 - the study on developments in regions outside the NATO area.

Since various aspects of the consultative process in NATO and, in particular, the problem of commitment is highly relevant to each of the four subjects mentioned, the sub-groups should study consultation issues insofar as they affect their specific subjects and report thereon in their final documents.

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The studies on the image of the Alliance in a sociologically changing public opinion are not immediately necessary and may be postponed until a later phase of the present exercise.

II. ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES

The Special Group, composed of Government representatives and presided by the Secretary General, is responsible on a continuing basis for all aspects of the exercise. 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 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 to the Secretary General and/or his representatives. 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 may select a person who is particularly well informed of the subject in question and preferably well-known. It is suggested that two such persons are selected for subject "East-West Relations". Consequently, there will be four sub-groups and five rapporteurs. 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 consider useful contributions.

The sub-groups may put such questions as appear necessary to outside organizations or individuals, subject to the approval of the Special Group.

In order to allow freedom of discussion, the representatives in each of the sub-groups will not necessarily commit their Governments at this stage of the exercise. After having fully discussed their subjects, the sub-groups will decide about the drafting of their reports and will approve them before submission to the Special Group. 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 may 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

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.

Manlio Brosio

14th March 1967