

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

Brief, prepared for SS
Planning MeetingMEETING OF THE SPECIAL GROUPMONDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1967Brief for the ChairmanYou may wish to say:

"May I say, first of all, how much I welcome your presence here today. The fact that so many distinguished representatives from capitals have come to participate in the work we are about to undertake, augurs well for the success of our enterprise. I would like to address a special word to those who are ready to assume the task of Rapporteur: first of all, of course, to my ^(constantly) predecessor, M. Paul-Henri Spaak, for whom this assignment means, in a certain sense, a return to old pastures; next to Ambassador Watson, Mr. Schütz and finally to Mr. Geoffrey Kitchen, who represents my old friend Mr. Foy Kohler whom I am sorry to miss today, but who will be with us later. Dr. Patijn, the Rapporteur in the fourth sub-group is also unable to attend this morning, but he will be present at the meeting of his Group to-morrow. I welcome you all and wish you God speed in your work.

2. The Ministerial Resolution called on us "to study the future tasks which face the Alliance, and its procedures in fulfilling them, in order to strengthen the Alliance as a factor for a durable peace." Whatever may be the ultimate implications of this directive, or the difficulties we may encounter in fulfilling it, the fundamental purpose of our exercise is surely clear and a point of general agreement.

It is to re-assert the necessity of our Alliance and the continuing importance of its cohesion. How to reach this objective concretely, is for the sub-groups, the Special Group and, finally, our Ministers to determine. It is your duty to lay the basis upon which a maximum degree of common agreement as to the future actions of our Alliance can be created.

3. In referring to the nature of your reports, I do not want to establish too rigid a line between phases of procedure. In the work we launch today we obviously need to describe in objective, realistic and reasonable terms the situation confronting us today: what is Soviet foreign policy? What are its consequences for the Alliance? What is the nature of our ^(inter-allied) relations? What should be the guiding principles of our defence posture? And what should the Allies discuss and conclude about the problems outside the NATO area?

4. On the basis of such a description you will then have to reflect upon the tasks to be undertaken by the Alliance. You will have to propose to Ministers a broad outline of guidance for the future actions of the Alliance. Obviously, your work, in all its phases, needs to be coordinated. While this is clearly the main responsibility of the Special Group, the Secretary General and the Rapporteurs ^{may} might usefully meet informally from time to time for purposes of coordination.

5. With regard to procedure, it is generally felt that the Rapporteurs should serve as Chairmen of their sub-groups, and that in their absence, the members of the sub-groups belonging to the same nationality as the Rapporteurs should

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separating two
phases of analysis
and conclusion

take the Chair. I quite agree with this view and I expect that the ^{sub-groups} ~~Special Group~~ ^{here will be} should have no problem with this organization. *about the Chairmanship of the Subgroups*

6. Next I wish to remind you of our understanding that in order to ensure freedom of discussion in the sub-groups, no records shall be kept.

7. Thirdly, let me refer to my P.O. which informs you of the names of the officers of the International Staff whom I have asked to be members of the sub-groups as my representatives. Furthermore the Rapporteurs and the members of the sub-groups may rely on the Committee Secretaries to assist them in their work.

8. I thought I should also let you know that I plan to hold a press conference at the end of this meeting. On Thursday we issued a NATO press release in which we published the names of the Rapporteurs and the titles of the subjects to be studied. I plan to fill out this information on a background basis.

9. Finally, I would like to add a few brief words on the timing of our work until the Ministerial Meeting in June because it is a factor to be kept in mind. As you will recall, the Council was instructed to give Ministers a progress report on that occasion.

10. As I see it, it may be expected that the sub-groups will proceed at different speeds and that consequently their reports will be completed according to different schedules. I think that we should allow the sub-groups a large measure of flexibility in organizing their work in accordance with their needs.

11. I note with satisfaction that certain Rapporteurs have already drawn up an initial list of questions which may serve as the basis for a preliminary discussion in their sub-groups. I presume that following such a discussion, the Rapporteurs will prepare their initial substantive reports which, of course, will then be discussed at length by their sub-groups. It seems to me that this is a very good way of proceeding, but, as I said, we should allow the sub-groups considerable flexibility in carrying out their studies.

12. To be specific with regard to timing, however, I must remind you that all papers to be considered at Ministerial meetings must go to capitals at least two weeks in advance. This requires that the Special Group complete its Progress Report - which means discussing and preparing it - no later than the 29th of May. This in turn means that the sub-groups must have their reports - whether interim or final - completed for discussion and coordination in the Special Group no later than the 15th of May. Finally, on this subject, let me recall that a special meeting of the Special Group at a high political level is still envisaged in completing this phase of our study, *and this should take place, I believe, in the second half of May.*

13. I know you are aware of the great importance which Ministers and public opinion attach to your work. You know that you can count on the unstinting support of myself and my staff. I am confident that working together we shall be able to produce an ^(a. posteriori) important study for the future of our Alliance.