

NETHERLANDS DELEGATION TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

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Special Group on the Future Tasks of the Alliance
Subgroup I: "The Political Aims of the Alliance"

Netherlands comments on the paper submitted on May 6, 1967,
by the Rapporteurs of Subgroup I.

1. The Netherlands authorities believe that the discussions in Subgroup I should not be limited to the questions of European security, the German problem and the nature of a European settlement, although these problems are of great importance to the whole Alliance.

As a starting point for our studies we should, however, consider East-West relations in general, including such questions as the development of Soviet-American relations and the influence of the Sino-Soviet conflict on East-West relations. The specific European problems should be considered, in the view of the Netherlands authorities, within this larger framework of international developments.
2. Chapter I, paragraph 2 of the paper submitted by the two Rapporteurs, raises the main question: "Can détente by itself achieve a European settlement?" Perhaps the subquestions following this main question under paragraph 2, which are intended to further develop the general theme, could be formulated in such a way as to be tuned more directly to the main introductory question of this paragraph.
3. The Netherlands authorities share the view expressed by the Secretary General in paragraph 3 of his document on Soviet policy and the détente, that it would appear more advisable to consider the questions of procedures and measures first, keeping in mind their effect on the resolution of the German problem, before trying to resolve the overall question of a European settlement.