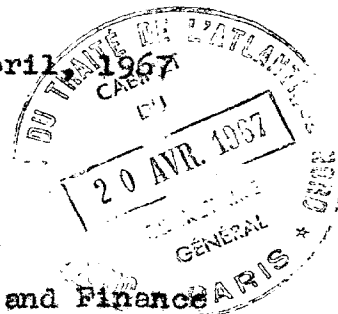


20th April, 1967



To: Secretary General

c.c. Deputy Secretary General -
A.S.G. for Political Affairs
Directeur du Cabinet
Acting A.S.G. for Economics and Finance
Mr. Menne

From: C. Chapman

Subject: Working Group 1 on the Future Tasks of the Alliance - Meeting of 18th April, 1967

This first meeting went off rather well. It was almost entirely devoted to questions of procedure. There were no serious differences of views on any issue; on the contrary, there was general agreement on the manner of envisaging the work. I only wish to add a few comments to Mr. de Burlet's memorandum of 18th April which summarised the sub-group's major decisions.

1. Both the British and German papers which were presented were in the form of questionnaires. There was general agreement that the sub-group should not rush into writing a substantive report; that this exercise offered an opportunity to examine all the possibilities of action open to the Alliance; and that, initially at least, the sub-group should encourage the broadest expression of ideas possible. Thus it was agreed that the sub-group should not be hurried in its work, and that as a next step the two Rapporteurs should fuse their papers into a single questionnaire.

2. Emphasis was also placed on aiming to write a final paper which would be realistic in content and which would recommend concrete policies that could be implemented in the foreseeable future - i.e. five to ten years. This position was particularly strongly expressed by Mr. Schütz.

3. The German paper which you have seen is remarkable because of the nature of the questions that it poses. They place before the sub-group all the basic issues of a future European settlement. It may be wondered whether such a paper could have been written six months ago and whether even now the sub-group will be able to pursue the answers to the questions which are raised. Nevertheless, I believe that the success of the whole exercise may depend to a degree on the manner in which the questions raised in this paper are treated.

4. The only sour note of the meeting was struck by the French Delegate. He noted the paragraph in the British paper entitled "Western Policy towards Détente" and reiterated the well-known French reservation on this subject: if the Alliance seeks to define a common line of policy, it will re-create the impression of a block to block relationship. He also considered that it was not opportune to recommend, at this stage of the study, a role for NATO. (The role of NATO had been brought up by a number of speakers as a major factor to be considered.)