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TO : The Secretary General

cc : Mr. P.C. Henne
Mr. A.P. Hockaday ✓

FROM : L. Thiebault,
Secretary of Sub-Group 3

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NATO SECRET

Future Tasks of the Alliance - Sub-Group 3

The Sub-Group on general defensive policy of the Alliance chaired by Mr. P.D. Kohler met on 18th May. ✓ The next meeting will be held in Washington during the first week of October.

An examination was made of the outline of a report prepared by the Rapporteur in the form of a series of questions relating to :

- the current politico-military situation, and
- the relationship of NATO defense policies and programmes to the broader political objectives of the Alliance.

It was agreed that this outline would serve as a basis to the Rapporteur for preparing before 31st May the interim report to be submitted in June to the Ministers.

Members of the Sub-Group will then submit their written comments on the "Questionnaire" to the Rapporteur who will issue by mid-September a first draft of the report.

A few salient points in the discussion

The report on defensive policy should be situated within the framework of the general purpose of NATO as described in the North Atlantic Treaty.

Attention should be focused on the necessity and/or advantages of a multilateral alliance as against the recent tendency in the Eastern Bloc for a network of bi-lateral treaties which might lead for propaganda purposes to the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

The Sub-Group should not examine what changes in the level and form of the military posture of the Alliance would be necessary in the future to react to the expected evolution outside NATO but rather define if and how the defence posture should be modified in order that the situation outside NATO may evolve in a way most favorable to the Alliance.

The Sub-Group should consider what disarmament and/or arms control measures might be envisaged which would not endanger the present security of NATO countries while lowering the East-West military balance and what might be the resulting defence policy of NATO.

The study should be placed against the background of the planned trends in the advance of technology.

Attention should be given to decision making procedures.

Impact of the NATO defence posture on the Third World should be envisaged within the framework of the position of NATO as an organisation covered by Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

19th May, 1967