

File Special Group

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To: Delegations

From: The Secretary General

The International Staff has prepared a tentative draft of paragraphs for the communiqué and for an annex to it, which I submit to the Delegations on my own initiative and purely as a contribution to their discussion.

12.12.67

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PARAGRAPH FOR FINAL COMMUNIQUE

A year ago, on the initiative of the Foreign Minister of Belgium, member governments resolved "to study the future tasks of the Alliance and its procedures for fulfilling them in order to strengthen the Alliance as a factor for durable peace". Studies were undertaken by Messrs. Schütz, Watson, Spaak, Kohler and Patijn, to whom the Council expressed its appreciation and thanks for their efforts and for the analyses they produced. The Report to Ministers was presented by the Special Group. Ministers examined and discussed this Report and came to the conclusions set forth in the Declaration at annex.

FUNCTIONS OF THE ALLIANCE

1. The study has shown that the Alliance is a lively and vigorous organization which is constantly adapting itself to changing conditions. It also has shown that its future tasks can be handled within the terms of the Treaty by building on the methods and procedures which have proved their value over many years.

2. The Atlantic Alliance has two main functions. Its first function is to maintain adequate military strength and political solidarity to deter aggression and other forms of pressure and to defend the territory of member countries if aggression should occur. Since its inception the Alliance has successfully fulfilled this task. The Allies will maintain, as necessary, a suitable military capability to assure the balance of forces, thereby creating a climate of stability, security and confidence.

3. In this climate the Alliance can carry out its second function, to pursue the search for progress towards a more stable relationship in which the underlying political issues can be solved. Military security and a policy of détente are not contradictory but complementary. Collective defence is a stabilising factor in world politics. It is the necessary condition for effective policies directed towards a greater relaxation of tensions.....

4. The Allies are resolved to direct their energies to this purpose by realistic measures designed to further a détente in East-West relations. The relaxation of tensions is not the final goal but is part of a long-term process to promote better relations and to foster a European settlement. The ultimate political purpose of the Alliance is to achieve a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe accompanied by appropriate security guarantees.

5. As sovereign states the Allies are not obliged to subordinate their policies to collective decision. The Alliance affords an effective forum and clearing house for the exchange of information and views; thus, each of the Allies can decide his policy in the light of close knowledge of each others' problems and objectives. To this end the practice of frank and timely consultations needs to be deepened and improved. Each Ally should play its full part in promoting an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe, bearing in mind that the pursuit of détente must not be allowed to split the Alliance. The chances of success will clearly be greatest if the Allies remain on parallel courses, especially in matters of close concern to them all.

6. No peaceful order in Europe is possible without a major effort by all concerned. The evolution of Soviet and East European policies gives ground for hope that those governments may eventually come to recognise the advantages to them of collaborating in working towards a peaceful settlement. But no final and stable settlement in Europe is possible without a solution of the German question which lies at the heart of present tensions in Europe. Any such settlement must end the unnatural barriers between Eastern and Western Europe, which are most clearly and cruelly manifested in the division of Germany.

7. Currently the development of contacts between the countries of Western and Eastern Europe is mainly on a bilateral basis;

8. The Allies will examine and review suitable policies designed to achieve a just and stable order in Europe, to overcome the division of Germany and to foster European security. This will be part of a process of active and constant preparation for the time when fruitful discussions of these complex questions may be possible between Eastern and Western nations.

9. The Allies are studying disarmament and practical arms control measures, including the possibility of balanced force reductions. These studies will be intensified. Their active pursuit reflects the will of the Allies to work for an effective détente with the East.

10. The Allies will examine with particular attention the defence problems of the exposed areas e.g. the South-Eastern flank. In this respect the current situation in the Mediterranean presents special problems.

11. The North Atlantic Treaty area cannot be treated in isolation from the rest of the world. Crises and conflicts arising outside the area may impair its security either directly or by affecting the global balance. NATO countries contribute within the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the solution of important international problems. In accordance with established usage the Allies or such of them as wish to do so will also continue to consult on such problems.

12. Ministers have directed the North Atlantic Council in permanent session to carry out, in the years ahead, the detailed follow-up resulting from this study. This will be done either by intensifying work already in hand or by activating highly specialized studies by more systematic use of experts and officials sent from capitals.

TRANSLATION OF A TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE ITALIAN DELEGATION

/Ministers found that the study by the Special Group confirmed the importance of the rôle which the Alliance is called upon to play during the coming years in the promotion of détente and the strengthening of peace. Since significant problems have not yet been examined in all their aspects, and other problems of no less significance which have arisen from the latest political and strategic developments have still to be examined, the Ministers have directed the Permanent Representatives to put in hand the study of these problems without delay, following such procedures as shall be deemed most appropriate by the North Atlantic Council in Permanent Session, in order to enable a comprehensive report to be subsequently submitted to the North Atlantic Council in Ministerial Session.⁷