

1. A year ago, on the initiative of the Foreign Minister of Belgium, the governments of the fifteen nations of the Alliance resolved to "study the future tasks which face the Alliance, and its procedures for fulfilling them in order to strengthen the Alliance as a factor for durable peace". The present report sets forth the general tenor and main principles emerging from this examination of the future tasks of the Alliance.
2. Studies were undertaken by Messrs. Schutz, Watson, Spaak, Kohler and Patijn. The Council wishes to express its appreciation and thanks for their efforts and for the penetrating analyses they produced.
3. The exercise has shown that the Alliance is a lively and vigorous organisation which is constantly adapting itself to changing conditions. It also has shown that the future tasks can be handled within the terms of the Treaty and by building on the methods and procedures which have proved their value over many years.
4. Since the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in 1949 the international situation has changed significantly. Thanks to the Alliance, communist expansion in Europe has been stopped; the U.S.S.R. has become one of the two world superpowers, but the communist world is no longer monolithic; and the Soviet doctrine of "peaceful co-existence" has changed the nature of its confrontation with the West. Europe has recovered and started to integrate; the ending of the European colonial empires has transformed European relations with the rest of the world; but there is a growing disparity between the power of the United States and that of the European States. Under these conditions the political aspects of the Alliance have assumed a new significance.

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5. 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 to defend the territory of member countries if aggression should occur. Since its inception the Alliance has successfully fulfilled this task. But the U.S.S.R. has constantly increased its military strength; and so long as central political issues in Europe - first and foremost the German question - remain unsolved, the Alliance will need a full spectrum of military capabilities in order to create a climate of stability, security and self-confidence. 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. Détente cannot thrive in a disorganised world. Collective defence is a stabilising factor in world politics. It is the necessary condition for effective policies directed towards a greater relaxation of tensions. The way to peace and stability in Europe is not to dissolve existing groupings but to use them constructively. The participation of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. will be necessary for the effective solution of the security problems of Europe.

6. From the beginning the Atlantic Alliance has been a co-operative grouping of like minded states with many purposes in common. Their cohesion and solidarity provide an element of stability within the Atlantic area. As sovereign states the Allies are not obliged to subordinate

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their policies to collective decision. The Alliance has no supra-national powers; nor is it politically an executive agency.

7. The Alliance affords an effective forum and clearing house for the exchange of information and views so that the allies can frame their policies in the light of close and intimate knowledge of each other's 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. The chances of success will clearly be greatest if the Allies remain on parallel courses, especially in matters of close concern to them all.

8. No peaceful order in Europe is possible without a major effort by all concerned. The evolution of Soviet and East European policies, though its extent is uncertain, gives some ground for hope. Those governments may gradually come to recognise the advantages to them of collaboration in working towards a peaceful settlement. 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.

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9. Accordingly the Allies are resolved to direct their energies to this purpose ^{desire to further a direct} ~~and to further the détente~~ by realistic measures aimed ^{toward a direct} ~~at increasing confidence~~ 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, guaranteed by a balanced and viable system of European security.

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10. The development of contacts between the countries of Western and Eastern Europe is now mainly on a bilateral basis, which is

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the most practicable. But there is ~~clearly~~ ^{2.2.2} a limit to the progress which can be made bilaterally. Certain subjects by their nature require a multilateral solution.

11. The problems ^{German reunification} of a European settlement and German reunification have normally been dealt with in exchanges between the Soviet Union and the three Western powers ~~with~~ ^{of Germany} having special responsibilities in this field. In the preparation of such exchanges the Federal Republic has regularly joined the three Western powers in order to reach a common position. The other Allies, ^{who have} ~~who~~ supported the initiatives taken, will continue to have their views ^{participated to promote the progress of} considered through the normal procedures of the Council ^{in the framework of the normal} without in any way impairing the special responsibilities in question. ^{or by other means as appropriate}

12. Accordingly the allies will concentrate on a number of tasks in the years ahead:

- (a) They will examine ^{and} the review suitable policies designed to achieve a just and stable order in Europe, to overcome the division ^{of} in Germany, and to foster European security.

This will be part of a process of active and constant preparation for the time when fruitful ~~East-West~~ ^{discussions}

discussions of these complex questions ^{may be possible} ~~may be possible~~.

- (b) The Allies are studying disarmament and practical arms control measures, including the possibility ^{of} ~~to~~ balanced

force reductions. These studies will be intensified.

will continue to have the same interest in the disarmament studies as the Allies and will be kept informed of their progress.

Their active pursuit reflects the will of the allies to work for an effective détente with the East.

- (c) They will examine with particular attention ^{all the aspects of} the defence

the defence problems of the exposed areas. ^{Fig 14 with eastern changes} In this respect the ^{special problems have arisen} current situation in the Mediterranean presents special ^{concerns & difficulties} problems, bearing in mind that the current crisis in the ^{as distinct from the cold war} Middle East clearly falls within the responsibilities of the United Nations.

- (13) (d) The North Atlantic Treaty area cannot be treated in isolation from the rest of the world. Crisis 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 a number of cases} The Allies ^{They} ~~or~~ such of them ^{as the case may demand} as wish to do so will also continue to consult on such problems without commitment. ^{at best} Such consultation may result in harmonizing of policies and at least it should lead to better understanding of other Allies' motives and purposes.

~~14~~ The Council in permanent session will in the normal course of business carry out the detailed follow-up of Ministerial directives resulting from this study. This will be done either by intensifying work already in hand or by activating highly specialised studies by more systematic use of experts and officials sent from capitals.

It is recognized that some of the points

Belgian Mission

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FUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE
Report of the Special Group

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2. Studies were undertaken by Messrs. Schutz, Watson, Spaak, Kohler and Patijn. The Council wishes to express its appreciation and thanks *to these eminent personalities* ~~for their efforts~~ and for the ~~penetrating~~ analyses they produced.
3. The exercise has shown that the alliance is ^alively and vigorous organization which is constantly adapting itself to changing conditions. It also has shown that the future tasks can be handled within the terms of the Treaty and by building on the methods and procedures which have proved their value over many years.
4. Since the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in 1949, the international situation has changed significantly. *efforts* ~~Thanks to~~ the Alliance, *played a major role in* communist ~~expansion in Europe~~ *has* been stopped; the USSR has become one of the two world superpowers, but the communist world is no longer monolithic; and the Soviet doctrine of "peaceful co-existence" has changed the nature *Problems of the* of its confrontation with the West. Europe has recovered and started to integrate; the ending of the European colonial empires has transformed European relations with the rest of the world; *there is* but there is a growing disparity between the power of the United States and that of the European States. *In view of all* ~~Under~~ these conditions, the political aspects of the Alliance have assumed a new significance.

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5. 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 to defend the territory of member countries if aggression should occur. Since its inception the Alliance has successfully fulfilled this task. But the USSR has constantly increased its military strength; and so long as central political issues in Europe - first and foremost the German question - remain unsolved, ^{and} the Alliance will need a full spectrum of military capabilities in order to create a climate of stability, security and self-confidence.

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 detente are not contradictory but complementary. Detente cannot thrive in a ^{in disorder} ~~disorganized~~ world. Collective defense is a stabilising factor in world politics. [It is the necessary condition for effective policies directed towards a greater relaxation of tensions. The way to peace and stability in Europe is not to dissolve existing groupings but to use them constructively.] The participation of the USSR and the USA

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their policies to collective decision. The Alliance has no supra-national powers; nor is it politically an executive agency.

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7. The Alliance affords an effective forum and clearing house for the exchange of information and views so that the allies can frame their policies in the light of close and intimate knowledge of each other's 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. The chances of success will clearly be greatest if the allies remain on parallel courses, especially in matters of close concern to them all. *These actions will thus be all the more effective*

8. (11) No peaceful order in Europe is possible without a major effort by all concerned. The evolution of Soviet and East European policies, though its extent is uncertain, gives some ground for hope. Those government may gradually come to recognize the advantages to them of collaboration in working towards a peaceful settlement. 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.

10/ 9. Accordingly, the Allies are resolved to direct their energies to this purpose (and to further the détente) by realistic measures aimed at increasing confidence in East-West relations. *designed to further*

(12) The relaxation of tensions is not the final goal but is part of a long term process to promote better relations and foster a European settlement. (12) The ultimate political purpose of the Alliance is to achieve a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe, (guaranteed by a balanced and viable system of European security.)

10. The development of contacts between the countries of Western and Eastern Europe is now mainly on a bilateral basis, which is the most practicable. But there is clearly a limit to the progress which can be made bilaterally.

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Certain subjects by their nature require a multilateral solution.

11. The problems of a European settlement and German reunification have normally been dealt with in exchanges between the Soviet Union and the three Western powers with special responsibilities in this field. In the preparation of such exchanges the Federal Republic ^{of Germany} has

regularly joined the three Western powers in order to reach a common position. The other allies, ^{all of} who have

supported the initiatives taken will continue to have ^{in the formulation of the general policy of the West} their views considered ~~through the normal procedures of the Council~~ without in any way impairing their special responsibilities in question.

12. Accordingly the allies will concentrate on a number of tasks in the years ahead:

- (a) They 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 East-West ^{either bilaterally or multilaterally, G-8 + 4 or} discussions of these complex questions may be possible.

- (b) 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.

- (c) They will examine with particular attention ^{all the aspects of} the defence problems of the exposed areas. ^{e.g. the SE flank} In this respect the current situation in the Mediterranean presents special problems, bearing in mind that the current

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(d) 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. The Allies [or such of them as wish to do so] ^{shall} will also continue to consult on such problems without ^{and in a timely manner} commitment. At best such consultation may result in harmonizing of policies and at least it should lead to better understanding of the motives and purposes of other Allies.

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