

DRAFT OF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 1967 ON
FUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE

..... You may wish to say:

"This meeting is called at government level for the purpose of discussing a confidential Report to Ministers in December on the Future Tasks of the Alliance.

Our aim today should be to discuss the substance of this report and the major issues and questions dealt with in this study. It is for this purpose of substantive discussion that I have circulated document FO/67/796 in which the Secretariat has set forth a list of the issues which have arisen in the study on the Future Tasks of the Alliance.

My hope, therefore, is that we can avoid getting sidetracked on to either procedural questions or on to the quite separate question of deciding what, at a later stage, should be published of this study. We should rather concentrate on the substance of the Confidential Report to be made to Ministers and, in particular, hear statements regarding the attitude of each government, (whether positive or negative,) on each of the main topics of this study. The Secretariat, as well as Delegations, will take careful note of the views thus expressed in order to be able to assist us in whatever redrafting exercise may be necessary and agreed, to bring our report into final shape for the Ministerial meeting.

Finally, regarding the formal basis on which we are called on to act, I would recall that on 22nd February the Council made a number of procedural decisions concerning this study, ending with the sentence:

"In any case, the Special Group will make an interim report to the Council in Permanent Session in time for the Ministerial Meeting in June and a final report in time for the December meeting."

△ NOTE: It is curious to note:

(a) that this undertaking by the Special Group relates only to Reports to the "Council in Permanent Session";

(b) that the wording of the original resolution, adopted 16th December, 1966, while mentioning a "preliminary report", avoids the word "report" in connection with the meeting of December, 1967. Instead, it says "the Ministerial Council at its meeting in December, 1967 will draw the appropriate conclusions that emerge from the enquiry";

(c) that, consistently with (b) above, the Luxembourg meeting communiqué of 14th June, 1967 also avoided any mention of a report for the December, 1967 meeting of Ministers. Instead, it referred to the original resolution, noted the keen interest displayed in the study, and ended by saying "Ministers look forward to receiving the substantive results of this study".

In conclusion, it could on this basis be argued that there is, formally speaking, no Council undertaking or commitment to present a report to Ministers in December. The Permanent Council could use the Report which the Special Group is obliged to produce in any way it sees fit; it could for example merely recommend a brief list of "conclusions" to Ministers or in some other way pass on the "results of this study".⁷