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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THREE

In accordance with the Council's request made at the Ministerial Session in May, 1956(1), the Committee of Three herewith submits its Report on ways and means to improve and extend NATO co-operation in non-military fields(2).

2. The Committee feels bound to draw attention to the fact that co-operation between NATO governments has shown signs of deterioration in the interval since the Council entrusted it with its task last May. Not only have existing inter-member differences persisted, but also important initiatives affecting the common interests of the Alliance have been taken by certain members without prior consultation in the NATO Council or directly with other member governments concerned.

3. As a result, unity among its members has been severely strained. These divergencies, if not rapidly removed, threaten to impair not only the solidarity but the very security of the Atlantic Community.

4. In particular, with respect to the Middle East, divergencies were allowed to develop without real efforts being made to overcome them by effective consultation. Thus the resulting situation had serious military consequences in weakening NATO defences, even though temporarily, quite apart from its obvious political implications.

5. This unfortunate deterioration in Western co-operation took place at the very time when the Soviet Union, by the use of force in Hungary and by adopting a threatening attitude on Middle Eastern problems, gave evidence of a return to a policy of renewed harshness and open hostility.

6. The Committee therefore has had to take into account the present critical problems with which NATO is confronted.

7. A basic purpose of NATO - and one which has not been achieved - is to develop the ways and means, as well as the will, to prevent crises between its members, to unify its members in the face of crises provoked by others and to be capable of operating effectively in conditions of crisis.

8. In the light of these considerations, most stress is laid in the Report on the need for developing further the practice of political consultation with a view to agreement on common policies, and on the various ways in which the Committee believes that this improved consultation can be achieved. But the Report can do no more than to set out guide-posts and suggest the framework for such improved consultation.

(1) C-R(56)23.
(2) C-M(56)127.

9. To achieve results, all member governments must themselves put more meaning into and get greater results from consultation by making full use of the means provided by NATO. Unless they do so the Alliance will not be able to achieve its purposes, and will in all probability weaken and eventually disappear.

10. The Committee also draws attention to the Resolution which the Council is invited to adopt on the peaceful settlement of inter-member disputes (Chapter 2, paragraph 58), a draft of which is attached to this note at Annex I. The Committee cannot emphasise too strongly that unless inter-member differences are settled quickly and satisfactorily, the solidarity of the Alliance is bound to suffer.

11. Various possibilities were given careful consideration by the Committee, including the setting up of a standing committee of the Council to aid in the mediation and conciliation of inter-member disputes and the possibility of setting up an arbitral board. The procedure set out in the proposed Resolution is regarded by the Committee as a minimum requirement which should be accepted by the Council if NATO is to be enabled to help member governments in discharging their responsibilities under the first Article of the North Atlantic Treaty. More elaborate procedures might have to be developed by the Council if experience showed that this was necessary.

12. To assist member governments and the Secretary General in giving effect to the Report, a draft Resolution for the consideration and adoption by the Council is attached at Annex II.

13. Considering the importance of better public understanding of NATO's aims and activities, to hold the support of the public in member countries and to avoid unjustified criticism in non-NATO countries, the Committee recommends that while this letter of transmittal should remain classified, the text of the Report itself should be released. The Committee therefore suggests that the Council decide to release the Report not later than at the beginning of its Ministerial Session in December. Some points which the Committee believes are inappropriate for inclusion in a public report or which need additional explanation are listed at Annex III.

14. Finally the Committee recommends that as a matter of urgency the Council consider, in the light of the recommendations contained in this Report, measures to overcome the grave situation which has arisen affecting the solidarity and security of the Alliance.

(Signed) GAETANO MARTINO
Foreign Minister of Italy

HALVARD LANGE
Foreign Minister of Norway

L.B. PEARSON
Secretary of State for
External Affairs of Canada

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.

Draft resolution on the peaceful settlement of disputes
and differences between members of the North Atlantic
Treaty Organization

WHEREAS the parties to the North Atlantic Treaty have undertaken to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered;

WHEREAS the parties have further undertaken to seek to eliminate conflicts in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them;

WHEREAS NATO unity and strength in the pursuit of these objectives remain essential for continuous co-operation in military and non-military fields;

THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL:

REAFFIRMS the obligations of all its members to settle by peaceful means any dispute between themselves;

DECIDES that any such disputes which have not proved capable of settlement directly be submitted to good offices procedures within the NATO framework before member governments resort to any other international agency; except for disputes of a legal character appropriate for submission to a judicial tribunal and those disputes of an economic character for which attempts at settlement might best be made initially in the appropriate specialised economic organizations;

RECOGNISES the right and duty of member governments and of the Secretary General to bring to its attention matters which in their opinion may threaten the solidarity or effectiveness of the Alliance;

EMPOWERS the Secretary General to offer his good offices informally at any time to member governments involved in a dispute and with their consent to initiate or facilitate procedures of inquiry, mediation, conciliation, or arbitration;

AUTHORISES the Secretary General where he deems it appropriate for the purpose outlined in the preceding paragraph to use the assistance of not more than three permanent representatives chosen by him in each instance.

Draft resolution to be adopted by the North Atlantic Council on the report submitted by the Committee of Three appointed to report on the ways and means to improve and extend NATO co-operation in non-military fields and to develop greater unity within the Atlantic Community

WHEREAS the North Atlantic Council at its meeting in Paris on 5th May established a Committee composed of the foreign ministers of Italy, Canada and Norway to advise the Council on ways and means to improve and extend NATO co-operation in non-military fields and to develop greater unity within the Atlantic Community;

WHEREAS the Committee of Three has now reported on the task assigned to it and has submitted to the Council a number of recommendations on such ways and means to improve and extend NATO co-operation in non-military fields;

THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL:

APPROVES the report of the Committee of Three;

INVITES all member governments to take all necessary steps to put its recommendations into effect;

INVITES the Secretary General to draw up for consideration by the Council such further specific proposals as may be required for the implementation of these recommendations and to report periodically on their compliance.

Explanatory Notes to the Report

Among the problems of political co-operation, the Committee considered the relationship which NATO should have with parliamentary associations and the parliamentary conference (Chapter 2, paragraphs 59 and 60). While suggesting certain practical arrangements for maintaining a close relationship between the parliamentary conference and NATO, the Committee recognises that there was general agreement between member governments that the time had not yet arrived for setting up a parliamentary consultative assembly.

2. In Chapter 3 on economic co-operation, the Committee has endeavoured in a pragmatic way to set out the forms of co-operation which they deem NATO could usefully undertake under Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as well as to indicate those things which had best be left to other international economic organizations. There are, however, one or two points in the Report which the Committee believes require further explanatory comment:

- (a) In paragraph 65 reference is made to issues which may arise affecting the economic health of the Atlantic Community where NATO may be the most effective organization for consultation because of the political implications of such issues or because of their relation to the common defence; instances of such issues would be the assurance of oil supplies for Western Europe and the development of atomic power.
- (b) In the recommendation contained in paragraph 66 to the effect that NATO consultation should take place before meetings of organizations at which the interests of the Atlantic Community may be subject to attempts to weaken or divide the Alliance, the Committee had in mind organizations such as the ECE, ECOSOC and the Economic Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.
- (c) (i) On the subject of the training and recruitment of scientists, engineers and technicians (paragraphs 68-70), the Committee has received a report from Mr. Robert Major. This report is being made available to the Council(i).
- (ii) In the recommendation in paragraph 70 regarding a conference that might be convened to consider scientific and technical co-operation, the Committee believed that it was important that such a conference should include the participation of non-NATO countries in Europe who would be in a position to make a significant contribution in this field. The Committee therefore suggests that the Council give consideration to the procedure for carrying out this recommendation. There would be advantages in having NATO convene the conference. Alternatively if a NATO-based composition were thought to be too restrictive, NATO countries which are members of OEEC might encourage that Organization to undertake the task or promote its parallel co-operation.

- (d) With regard to paragraph 71, dealing with NATO's interests in the development of economically under-developed areas, the Committee recognised that consultation may become desirable on the priority to be given in economic assistance to areas of particular concern to the Atlantic Community, both inside and outside the North Atlantic area.
- (e) With reference to paragraph 73 on consultations concerning economic trends in Soviet countries and periodic meetings of experts on Soviet economic affairs, the Committee recognised that it would also be desirable to review in NATO from time to time the broader aspects of the control arrangements on trade with the Soviet bloc and Communist China and to seek agreement on the lines of action in this area most conducive to the security of the Atlantic Community.

3. The chapter on Organization and Functions is self-explanatory. The Committee would emphasise, however, with regard to paragraph 97 the need to ensure that their Permanent Representatives receive regular and prompt instructions to enable them to speak as authoritatively as possible for their governments in the Council. The corollary of this is of course that there should exist in every NATO capital effective machinery to maintain day-by-day contact between governments and their Permanent Representatives.