

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

12

ASO Political air.

EXEMPLAIRE N° 20  
COPY

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
28th August, 1956

NATO CONFIDENTIAL  
DOCUMENT  
CT-D/7

To: Members of the Committee of Three  
From: Acting Secretary General

The attached outline of what NATO has done so far in the non-military fields has been prepared by the International Staff in response to the Committee's request.\*

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\* CT-R/1, para. 6 ✓

NISCA FILE No

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OUTLINE OF WHAT NATO HAS DONE SO FAR IN THE NON-MILITARY FIELDS

The achievements of the NATO countries during the past ten years in the field of non-military co-operation have been considerable. This is demonstrated in the Survey of Article 2 activities prepared recently at the request of the Council.<sup>(1)</sup> But the practical achievements of NATO itself in this field have been severely limited, largely because most members of NATO are also members of a wide range of other agencies which deal with various aspects of non-military co-operation. Most of these agencies have a wider membership than NATO and provide essential political and economic links between the Atlantic countries and the rest of the world. The policy of NATO has therefore been to avoid a duplication of effort which would not only be wasteful but might weaken other agencies and harm these valuable links.

2. This policy is implicit in the Ottawa Declaration of 20th September 1951 in which the Council announced that it had set up a five-power Ministerial Committee on the North Atlantic Community to consider ways and means of implementing Article 2 of the Treaty "without duplicating the work of other international organizations which promote the same objectives" as NATO. The final report of this Committee,<sup>(2)</sup> adopted by the Council in February 1952, recommended that the tasks of the Committee be transferred to the Council in permanent session and made various suggestions for developing co-operation on the following subjects:-

- co-ordination and consultation on foreign policy;
- economic co-operation;
- the movement of labour;
- cultural co-operation;
- information activities.

The subject of social co-operation was also considered but the Committee felt that there was little that NATO could do which was not already being done, unless there was an opportunity in the future of developing trans-Atlantic collaboration. It recommended that the subject be kept under review. The following is a brief summary of what has been done so far in the non-military fields.

Co-ordination and consultation on foreign policy

3. Political discussions by the Council have increased steadily in scope and importance during the past few years. Certain subjects are debated regularly in Permanent and in Ministerial Sessions of the Council: the political implications of the military situation, taking account of the relative military strength of the Communist Bloc and of the West; relations in the Communist Bloc and trends in Soviet policy. On this latter subject a Working Group has been set up to advise the Council. Other questions

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(1) C-M(56)45(Revised)  
(2) C/9-D/8

have been brought before the Council by member governments which were of concern to other member governments or to the Organization as a whole. Special mention should be made of the consultations on the German problem, European security, and disarmament; and on the decisions taken at major international conferences. It is a sign of the growing use of the Council as a forum for political consultation that the earlier international conferences were discussed only after they had been held whereas before the Geneva conference in 1955 there were preliminary consultations on the line which would be followed.

4. [Nevertheless, political consultations have by no means reached the point of using the Alliance to the fullest advantage. The NATO countries are rightly reluctant to behave as though they were members of a tightly closed bloc, but many problems of common interest to member countries have as yet barely been touched upon.]

Economic co-operation

5. The work of this Organization in this field has fallen into two parts. First, economic studies of member countries are made in the course of the Annual Review (using to a great extent the results of the economic survey conducted by the OEEC). Although the purpose of these studies stems from the need to ensure that the defence effort rests on a secure economic base, they may fairly be regarded as having non-military implications. Following the precedent set by the Temporary Council Committee in 1951, the Council in debating the results of the Annual Review, has from time to time made recommendations on economic policy, while leaving the practical consequences of these recommendations to be worked out elsewhere.

6. Secondly, the Council has set up a committee to advise it on economic developments and policies in the Soviet countries, with particular reference to trends in the comparative economic strengths of the NATO and Soviet countries. Recently, this committee was requested to prepare periodic surveys of Soviet economic moves vis-à-vis the outside world, especially the underdeveloped areas. In addition, a committee of technical experts has been established which at present is studying the Pineau Plan for aid to underdeveloped countries.

7. [It will be noted that the growing interest of the Organization in economic matters arises from the changing tactics of the Soviet bloc rather than from the intention of member countries to use NATO as an instrument for general economic collaboration in the sense that this is implied in Article 2 of the Treaty.]

Social co-operation - the movement of labour

8. The only social question considered by NATO is that of the movement of labour. A working group has been set up to study trends in employment, labour mobility and migration and to advise the Council on means of freeing the movement of labour and assisting migration. This working group produces annual reports containing general conclusions but no precise recommendations for action.

Cultural and information activities

9. A Council committee has been established to give policy guidance on matters of information and cultural relations. Various studies have been made to find the most fruitful ways of developing cultural co-operation within NATO. In 1954, a temporary consultant was appointed who produced a report for the Council. In July 1956, a meeting was held of senior officers concerned with government sponsored cultural activities in member countries; their report is currently under consideration.

10. The results of five years of debate and study are not very impressive. So far the following action has been taken by NATO:

- (a) a NATO Fellowship and Scholarship Programme was established in 1955. It distributed its first sixteen grants in April 1956;
- (b) a summer course for representatives of Universities and Youth Organizations from NATO countries was held in Paris in July 1955. A further meeting of representatives of Youth Organizations was held this year;
- (c) NATO contributed to a Summer Seminar on International Organizations held in Oxford in July 1956.

11. The main information activities undertaken by the organization are: NATO sponsored journalists' tours, conferences of heads of national information services, conferences and courses on troop information, briefing of visitors to NATO Headquarters, the publication of the NATO letter, of handbooks and other documentation, the organization of mobile exhibits and the production and distribution of films.

12. [Despite an annual increase in the financial support for cultural and information activities, the total amount now made available seems small compared with the resources of member countries. At the same time, governments have failed to provide the alternative to increased support for NATO-wide activities - sustained and adequately programmed activities on a national basis.]