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German Delegation to NATO

12/18

SECRET

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Statement
made by Ambassador von Walther in the NATO-Council Meeting
on August 8, 1961

The Federal Government welcomes the American plans as they have been presented to us by the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk. The Federal Government regards the announcement and implementation of these plans as an essential element for the strengthening of the present Western position and at the same time for improving the conditions for a satisfactory and peaceful settlement of the crisis artificially provoked by the Soviet government.

The Federal Government is also prepared on its part to accelerate the measures to improve its own military potential without, however, being in a position to envisage specific military measures of an extraordinary nature at the present time in view of the end of the parliamentary term of the Bundestag and the forthcoming German Federal elections. In consistent continuation of its present policy the Federal Government will concentrate its efforts on the more rapid accomplishment of the military goals set in MC 70. In particular, it intends to accomplish the present build-up of nine Divisions not later than at the beginning of 1962 and to add two further Divisions of two Brigades each in the course of 1962. Moreover, it will take short-term measures to fill up stockpiles, to increase the quantities of weapons and ammunition available, as well as to improve logistic facilities.

The Federal Government will continue to inform its Allies of all measures taken by it.

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