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MESSAGE TO USRO

1. This message, which has been discussed by Ambassadorial Group, should be passed to your 3 Perm Rep Colleagues with a view to initiating discussions.
2. Ambassadorial Group has agreed on Tripartite-NATO Relationship paper (BQD-M-22). Clear consensus exists that full NATO agreement would be highly desirable on substance of paper, i.e.;, division of responsibility for planning and point at which responsibility for military operations initiated by Tripartite powers should be switched to NATO.
3. Some concern expressed over possibility that introduction of BQD-M-22 prior to NATO review and acceptance of military plans currently under preparation pursuant to NATO Military Directive might cause unnecessary difficulties. Possible this might be interpreted as requesting NATO to accept responsibility without clear knowledge of responsibility for what. Contrary view was that sufficient knowledge exists as to military plans (SACEUR has briefed me on this) and that it would be in interest of four powers to secure immediate NATO agreement on division of responsibility.
4. On balance view was that we should move forward as rapidly as possible and that question of timing, tactics, and procedures for attempting to gain NATO wide adherence to BQD-M-22 could best be judged by four Perm Reps in Paris. (In this regard, see para 4 of SHLO-9-0030).
5. Accordingly desire that you consult with your three colleagues to consider timing and manner of achieving NATO acceptance.
6. The Ambassadorial Group would appreciate being kept currently informed of your discussions. In event decision is reached to table a paper in NAC which differs in any significant fashion from BQD-M-22 Ambassadorial Group would appreciate being consulted.
7. You will find enclosed 12 copies of BQD-M-22. Enclosures 1 and 2 are only for information of Perm Reps.
8. Please pass copies to each of your three colleagues.