

NATO SECRET

4th March, 1963.

Berlin Contingency Planning

The Secretary General may wish, at a suitable opportunity, to remind the State Department that there is still some interest in the Council in continuing discussion of political contingency plans Berlin. The last meeting on this subject took place on the 31st January. It was agreed at the time that before the debate was resumed, the United States authorities would attempt to provide a co-ordinated reply to a number of points raised notably by the Belgian and Canadian Delegations. Furthermore, the Four Powers were reminded that they had undertaken to provide papers for guidance on various points mentioned in PO/62/641 viz., plans for diplomatic action in the LIVE OAK context; plans for action in the UN; precautions to be taken in order to ensure suitable interpretation by the Soviets of possible contingency measures in the military and non-military field; the problems arising from possible interference with German access to Berlin (PO/62/641 paragraph 14). All these points arose out of the debate on 27th September which followed Mr. Nitze's presentation on the 19th September. At that time Mr. Nitze let it be understood that further studies were under way in the Four Power Group in Washington and that the results would be reported to the Council in due course. So far, the only paper to have been presented deals with the situation in the event of a separate Soviet DDR peace treaty.

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Indications have also been given by the United States that further maritime contingency plans by the Three Powers only were under consideration. Apart from this, no further action appears to be required on the military contingency plans until, and unless, the Military Authorities come forward with new ideas or important modifications to existing plans.

2. Finally, the Secretary General will recall that the Military Authorities were due to report at the end of January on their negotiations with member countries on alert measures, particularly in the Berlin context. The latest indications are that a report might be available in "early March". This is, of course, a matter which primarily concerns the Standing Group rather than the State Department.


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