

Council Meeting 18 SeptemberBERLIN CONTINGENCY PLANNINGBrief for the Secretary General

You may wish to say :

"If I may now turn for a moment to tomorrow's business - Berlin Contingency Planning. Since my note PO/62/581 was distributed, the Four Powers most directly concerned with Berlin have transmitted to me a document on the possible, and in their view preferred sequence of Allied action in the political and economic as well as the military field in the event of the Berlin situation deteriorating to a point where member governments might have to consider implementing one or more of the contingency plans. This paper, which will be handed round immediately following this meeting, is not intended to serve as background for the discussion of PO/62/581 or the military documents which have already been distributed. The Four Power paper will, I believe, be a valuable contribution to the Council's debate and the subject matter is of such importance that I believe that Permanent Representatives will want to obtain their governments' views thereon before the Council attempts to reach decisions along the lines suggested in paragraph 7 of PO/62/581. I suggest therefore that Permanent Representatives take the opportunity of tomorrow's discussion to seek any explanations or clarification which they may see fit in connection with the Four Power paper, with a view to a further Council meeting on September 27th when we should endeavour to reach a firm position on as many aspects as possible of the planning documents submitted by the Standing Group and major NATO commanders. I have accepted on behalf of the Council a helpful suggestion that a representative of the Four Powers should give a brief presentation at the beginning of tomorrow's Council meeting by way of introduction to the paper.

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I would only add that the paper which I am now circulating has not been submitted by the Four Powers with the idea that it should be the subject of a formal agreement. At the same time I understand that the Four Powers would value the views of other member governments on their interpretation of the preferred sequence of events and would be glad to ascertain that they reflect a general consensus of opinion."