

MEETING OF THE SPECIAL GROUP29th MAY 1967Brief for the Secretary General

You may wish to say:

The Draft Interim Report which is before us today has been prepared in the light of the oral comments made at our last meeting and the written statements received since then in the International Secretariat. It was evident from our previous discussion that there are somewhat differing views as to the nature and content of this report; this Draft then tries to reconcile these divergencies in order to obtain the broadest agreement in this Special Group. I hope that we can approve the Draft this afternoon so that it can be submitted to the Council on Wednesday, 31st May, for transmittal to the Ministers.

Note for the Chairman:

Since preparing this report, the Dutch have received comments from The Hague. Our report meets most of the suggestions but Ambassador Boon may make three points :

1) He may suggest a footnote to Paragraphs 5 and 7 in which we refer to Sub-Group 4 under two different headings. In Paragraph 5 we call it Developments in Regions Outside the NATO Area and in Paragraph 7 Relations with Other Countries.

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This is probably a good suggestion and the footnote might run as follows: "Developments in Regions Outside the NATO Area was the first definition of Sub-Group 4's subject of study. Subsequently, the Special Group decided to change this definition to Relations with Other Countries in order to make publication of the subjects possible."

2) In paragraph 14, Ambassador Boon may comment that his Authorities very much favour giving the freest rein possible to the Sub-Groups to enable them to hold fruitful discussions, and he may comment that this is his interpretation of the phrase "broad freedom" in that paragraph.

3) Finally, the Dutch Ambassador may ask his colleagues whether they envisage issuing a separate communique on the Future Tasks of the Alliance. If he does, it is our strong recommendation that we should oppose this suggestion because highlighting this exercise will emphasise the limited accomplishments achieved so far and, moreover, it would diminish the value and standing of the Ministerial Meeting's Final Communique.