

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO MINISTERS
MEETING AT LUXEMBOURG ON RELATIVE
TO THE EXERCISE ON THE FUTURE TASKS OF THE
ALLIANCE

1. The Special Group on the Future Tasks of the Alliance met on and approved the text of its Progress Report to the North Atlantic Council on the above mentioned exercise. /

2. The Council subsequently agreed to submit this report to Ministers in its meeting of..... 7

3. After the adoption by Ministers on 16th December 1966 of the Resolution on the Future Tasks of the Alliance (C-M(66)145), Permanent Representatives and the Secretary General examined various aspects of the objectives of the proposed exercise as well as a range of possible procedures. After a number of useful preliminary informal contacts between Permanent Representatives and the Secretary General, the Council formally met on 15th February in the presence of
to discuss ways and means of putting into effect the Ministerial Resolution of December 1966. After a thorough and general debate on the basis of papers circulated by various Delegations and by the Secretary General, the Council adopted, in its meeting of 22nd February, the following Resolution:

- "(1) to carry out its mandate in the Ministerial Resolution of 16th December, 1966 , the Council will direct the exercise and be responsible for it;
- (2) to that effect the Council constitutes an open-ended Special Group of Representatives designated by governments, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary General;
- (3) the Special Group will study (a) the development of political events as it affects the purpose of the Alliance and (b) the consequent future tasks of the Alliance;
- (4) the Special Group will establish such special procedures, sub-groups and rapporteurs, and request such staff work from the International Staff, reinforced national delegations, and outside organizations, as it deems necessary;
- (5) when necessary, the Special Group would report to the Council and review with it the progress of the work and questions to be solved. In any case, the Special Group will make an interim report to the Council in Permanent Session in time for the Ministerial Meeting in June and a final report in time for the December meeting. "

4. The open-ended Special Group of Representatives, constituted by the Council in the above decision, met for the first time on 6th March 1967. Its essential task was to reach a decision on two points in particular: (a) the list of subjects to be studied; and (b) the manner in which these studies should be organized. Here again, the Group had the benefit of papers circulated to it by the Belgian, Italian, United Kingdom and United States Representatives as well as by the Secretary General. After various meetings, mainly devoted to a further examination and refinement of both the subjects to be studied and the

procedures to be adopted, the Special Group approved on 20th March a Working Paper which may be considered as the charter for the practical studies on the Future Tasks of the Alliance.

5. The Special Group agreed that in the first instance four main subjects should be studied. It was, of course, well understood that neither the definition nor the listing of these subjects was in any way limitative or exhaustive. The subjects were:

(1) East-West Relations

The political aims of the Alliance:

- (a) In general East-West relations in the light of an analysis of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and of the Eastern European countries,
- (b) With regard to European security, the German problem and the nature of a European settlement.

(2) Inter-Allied Relations

Possibilities of strengthening the bonds between Alliance countries generally; possibilities of inter-European co-operation within the Alliance; long and short term consequences of the unification of Europe; the ideological basis and unity of the Alliance.

(3) General Defensive Policy of the Alliance

Evolution of collective and regional security; principles governing the strategy of the Alliance and the level and deployment of forces; effects of various proposals - arms control and disarmament; balanced reduction of forces; nuclear arrangements - on the balance of power.

(4) Developments in regions outside the NATO area

6. It was also agreed that these subjects would be dealt with by four sub-Groups which, once constituted, might of course further refine the definition of the subjects and, if so desired, formulate them as questions. They are open to all members of the Alliance and to the Secretary General and/or his representatives. Finally, it was suggested that the presentation of each subject be entrusted to a national Delegation who might select, according to the Resolution of 22nd February 1967, a Rapporteur particularly well informed of the subject in question.

7. On 17th and 18th April 1967, the four sub-Groups met at NATO Headquarters under the guidance of the following Rapporteurs named by Governments:

East-West relations

Mr. J.H.A. Watson, Assistant Under Secretary of State, Foreign Affairs, (U.K.)

Mr. K. Schütz, Secretary of State Foreign Affairs (Fed. Rep. of Germany)

Inter-Allied relations

Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak, Minister of State (Belgium)

General Defence Policy

Mr. Foy Kohler, Deputy Under Secretary of State (U.S.)

Relations with other countries

Dr. C.L. Patijn, Professor in International political relations, University of Utrecht (Netherlands)

8. Since that date, the various sub-Groups have met from time to time, and discussed various questions submitted verbally or in writing by the Rapporteurs, by Delegations and by the Secretary General. The subsequent discussions were

marked by frankness and informality. However, in view of the fact that the preliminary planning stage of the exercise had taken much time, the sub-Groups have not yet reached any conclusions. Such conclusions may be expected in the various reports on which the Rapporteurs are currently working, and which, when completed, will be submitted to the Special Group.

9. While, then, this Progress Report cannot yet indicate substantial results, the discussions in the sub-Groups have already shown that the present studies on the Future Tasks of the Alliance meet a real need. Certain problems have already been examined with greater frankness than hitherto has been customary in NATO discussions; and quite apart from any conclusions likely to emerge, the thorough exploration of political problems both inside and outside the Alliance cannot but contribute to our understanding of our present problems and the future tasks of the Alliance.