Short version

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NATO SECRET

PRIVATE MEETING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES FURNISHING HARMEL EXERCISE RAPPORTEURS

Time:

16.00 hours, 24th July, 1967

Place:

Secretary General's Conference Room

Attending:

Belgium

- S.E.M. André de STAERCKE,

Ambassador

Germany

- Mr. H.K. DROEGE, Counsellor

Netherlands

- H.E. H.N. BOON, Ambassador - Mr. G.E. MILLARD, Minister

U.K.

- Mr. P. FARLEY, Minister

After a discussion of the Harmel Exercise, several miscellaneous points were raised.

Ambassador BOON informed the Secretary General that at the Council meeting on Wednesday (26th July) he intended to report on the visit of Rumanian Prime Minister MAURER to the Netherlands. He said he also might raise the question of lack of a French report to date of French conversations with the Soviets concerning the Non-Proliferation Treaty draft, but if so, he would inform the Secretary General beforehand.

Ambassador de STAERCKE expressed doubts as to whether this would be advisable in view of COUVE's irritation over previous NAC discussion of the issue.

Mr. FARLEY indicated that he would give a short report on the status of the NPT draft, even though there has been no recent progress in negotiations.

The Secretary General noted that the Icelandic Representative intended to report at the Council meeting on domestic elections in which a pro-NATO majority was manifested.

A short exchange of views on the French stand on the NPT followed. Mr. DROEGE expressed the view of certain of his authorities that the French had not perceptibly altered their position in general or with respect to EURATOM. Ambassador BOON, on the other hand, reasoned that the French now might intend to use the NPT as a means of shedding their EURATOM obligations. He said that de GAULLE reportedly favoured IAEA controls in an NPT since France, as a nuclear power, would then no longer be obliged to submit to EURATOM inspection. The Secretary General commented that such intentions would come

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into play at a later stage and did not currently affect the stated French psition: that France desires a voice in NPT negotiations only at such time as EURATOM becomes a factor in the discussions.

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