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To: Permanent Representatives

From: Acting Secretary General

FUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE

On 26th July, 1967, the Secretary General met with the Special Group on the Future Tasks of the Alliance to report on the meeting of the Rapporteurs of the four sub-groups that had taken place in Koenigswinter, Germany, on 21st July, 1967.

2. At the end of the meeting, several Permanent Representatives expressed a wish that the Secretary General's report might be circulated. Accordingly, I am sending you a copy of the report.

(Signed) James A. ROBERTS

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FUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE: REPORT BY SECRETARY GENERAL
TO SPECIAL GROUP ON THE MEETING OF RAPORTEURS AT
KOENIGSWINTER, GERMANY, ON 21ST JULY, 1967

1. Rapporteurs of the four Sub-Groups of the Special Group on the Future Tasks of the Alliance met under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak at Koenigswinter, Germany, on 21st July, 1967. Having been invited, in my capacity as Chairman of the Special Group, to attend this meeting, I was also present.

At the request of the Chairman, I made a comprehensive report on the discussion which had taken place in the private meeting of Permanent Representatives on 12th July. I did not conceal the doubts raised and the criticisms made in the course of that meeting. I stressed the need for co-ordination and realism which had been expressed by some Permanent Representatives. I made no attribution of opinion to any Permanent Representative.

2. As the Koenigswinter meeting reaffirmed, the Rapporteurs started from the assumption that their reports should be made under their own responsibility, and were working on the basis of that assumption. They envisaged a full discussion in the Sub-Groups and the possibility that dissenting opinions might be noted in an appropriate way together with the reports.

3. The matter of hearings was raised. The Rapporteurs were unanimous in maintaining that hearings would not be useful at this stage. They believed that their reports should express essentially their own thinking and reflect the opinions of members of the Sub-Groups. Recalling that some Representatives on the Sub-Groups had raised objections to the very idea of hearings, they added that nothing prevented any Rapporteur from having contacts with governmental, parliamentary, or private persons in order to exchange ideas. They concluded that the Special Group would be competent to take decisions with regard to the advisability, timing and character of possible hearings.

4. On substance, there was a very extensive exchange of views which lasted most of the day.

5. This exchange of views had as a basis the documents previously circulated by the Rapporteurs themselves, by several Delegations and by individual members of the Sub-Groups. The Chairman referred at the beginning of the discussion to two further papers which had just been distributed, one by Mr. Watson and the other by Mr. Kohler. Both these papers were of a comprehensive nature, covering not only matters concerning their own Sub-Groups but also subjects concerning other Sub-Groups. These two papers were very much in the minds of the Rapporteurs during their subsequent debate and were very useful in providing a common basis for discussion and an initial element of co-ordination.

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6. After a discussion of some of the basic issues of the exercise, each Rapporteur was invited to outline the content of his preliminary draft report as he saw it at this time, and did so. Each of these outlines was followed by a discussion, in which the other Rapporteurs expressed their ideas on the substance of their colleagues' plans and on the relationships between all of their subjects and ideas. This procedure had the effect of achieving practical co-ordination of the Rapporteurs' views through mutual appreciation and criticism.

7. A separate and more direct attempt at co-ordination took place at the end of the meeting, though proposals in this connection had been suggested earlier in the day. It was found that one way of avoiding overlapping and of assuring co-ordination would be to arrange the order of the reports in a different way from that indicated by the succession and Terms of Reference of the four Sub-Groups. It was suggested that each Rapporteur should write his report in such a manner as to allow it to be split in separate parts, each of which might find its appropriate place in the series of reports to be submitted to the Special Group. The order of submission was not determined: on the contrary, it was recognised that the final content and shape of the report should be the responsibility of the Special Group itself. Preliminary suggestions were made known, however, without any conclusions being reached.

For instance, it was suggested in the morning that the Sub-Groups' reports might start with a general part drafted by Mr. Spaak, then proceed with a section on defence by Mr. Kohler, followed by sections on East-West relations, détente, security pacts, and the German problem by Mr. Watson and Mr. Schütz; these would logically precede a second section by Mr. Kohler on disarmament and arms control, which in turn would be followed by another section about European problems in the Alliance by Mr. Spaak; the report by Dr. Patijn on NATO and the outside areas would come at the end.

In the afternoon the Chairman further elaborated the formula, suggesting the following order:

- 1st section: what the Alliance was and is;
- 2nd section: a statement that it should continue (another Rapporteur expressed the opinion that it would be sufficient to state the reasons justifying its continuation);
- 3rd section: confirmation of the continuing necessity of NATO's military rôle;
- 4th section: the rôle of the Alliance in the context of détente;

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- 5th section: the military problem in relation to détente (arms reduction);
- 6th section: Alliance policy over the short and medium range;
- 7th section: Alliance policy over the long range;
- 8th section: rôle of the Alliance outside the Treaty area.

I repeat that these suggestions were not considered as adopted, nor were they intended to impinge on the authority of the Special Group with regard to the final content and order of the report. Rather, they were made in the spirit of a conscious and useful effort to achieve better co-ordination.

8. Finally, it was agreed that the Rapporteurs should meet again in order to compare their drafts, after they had been discussed in full by the respective Sub-Groups. The timetable for the meetings of the Sub-Groups was confirmed as follows:

- Sub-Group I : 18th and 19th September
- Sub-Group II : Mr. Spaak agreed to suggest it be moved forward to 2nd and 3rd October
- Sub-Group III: end of September
- Sub-Group IV : 14th September.

Thus, all Sub-Groups would conclude their discussions of the draft reports in time to allow the Rapporteurs to meet again on 11th October, possibly in England, in order to continue their work and to conclude the action they so fruitfully began on 21st July of confronting each other's ideas. I think that this second meeting of the Rapporteurs may be even more useful than the first one, because it will allow them to compare prepared texts and so better ensure their co-ordination. At the same time, it seems to me that the time between now and the meetings of the Sub-Groups and of the Rapporteurs should be very useful for all Governments and all members of the Sub-Groups, as it will afford them an occasion for reflecting on the subjects included in the Terms of Reference and for assessing all the practical implications of the future developments of this important and delicate study.

You will recall that, in the discussion that ensued, following my report to the Special Group, it was decided to ask the Rapporteurs to provide the Sub-Groups with the texts of their papers ten days prior to the meetings of the Sub-Groups.