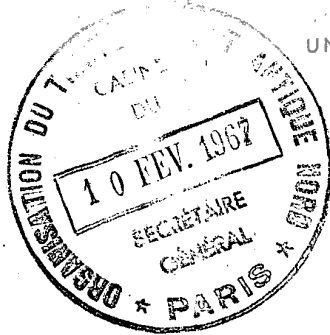


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UNITED KINGDOM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OTAN/NATO

PLACE DU MARECHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY
PARIS XVIIe
TEL: MIRABEAU 53-90

10 February 1967.

Dear Manlio

As a contribution to the discussion which is to take place in the Council on 15 February, on the resolution of the Ministerial Council arising out of the Belgian Government's initiative on the future tasks of the Alliance, I have prepared the enclosed paper which aims to set out in practical form some ideas for the work of the Council on this subject.

2. I would emphasize that my Government is not necessarily committed to the proposals in this paper. It is essentially a working paper intended for further discussion.

3. I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to all members of the Council.

Yours sincerely
Bernard Burrows
(Bernard Burrows)

Signor Manlio Brosio,
Secretary-General,
N.A.T.O.

16/2/67

FUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE

Paper by the United Kingdom Delegation

Object

The aim of the study to be undertaken in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Council on 16 December, 1966 should be to consider in practical terms the work to which the Alliance should devote its attention over the coming months and years. Concentration in this way on the specific tasks facing the member nations is likely to prove more fruitful than an attempt to review past events or to redefine the aims and purposes of the Alliance. It will permit the Alliance to consider how best to adapt itself to present circumstances and future prospects and to give solid evidence to public opinion that the Alliance is an effective and efficient structure responsive not only to developments among its own members but also to changes in the relationships between countries of East and West.

2. The tasks to which the Alliance should devote its attention fall naturally under three main headings, although it does not follow that all members of the Alliance would want to play an equal part in work under each head. These are:-

- (a) Political arrangements.
- (b) Military organisation.
- (c) Measures affecting the position of Europe within the Alliance.

3. Examples are given below of specific tasks which the Alliance might undertake under each of these three heads.

Political

4. Measures to improve political consultation within the Alliance, on the lines of the report of the Committee of Three in 1956, e.g. by more effective use of the Committee of Political Advisers and the groups of Experts. Particular attention should be given to arrangements to facilitate consultation in the Alliance before governments decide on courses of action, in which they might be influenced by the views of their allies even with regard to areas outside the North Atlantic area.

5. Ways of strengthening and intensifying the machinery for discussion within the Alliance of possible measures of arms control and disarmament, with a view to evolving proposals in the field of European Security supported by the Alliance as a whole.

6. Reinforcement of the rôle played in the Alliance by parliamentary opinion e.g. by developing the functions of the NATO Parliamentarians' Conference.

/Military

Military

7. Measures to streamline the military structure and organisation of the Alliance, so that it may be brought fully up to date in accordance with the latest changes in the nature of the threat and in military doctrine and so that it may provide a more realistic and less expensive machine.
8. Methods of developing greater co-operation and co-ordination in arms research, development and production, particularly at this time among the European members of the Alliance.
9. Study of the prospects of maintaining the present balance of deterrence in Europe while lowering the level of forces maintained opposite each other by the parties to the North Atlantic and Warsaw Treaties.

Europe

10. Methods of consultation among the European members of the Alliance on matters of particular concern to them, in order to facilitate the expression of European point of view on appropriate questions.

Procedure

11. The discussion of this matter should remain the responsibility of the Council. An interim report is to be made to the Ministerial meeting in June and a final report in December; but occasional meetings of the Council should also be held with Ministerial participation to review progress and give further directions for the work of the Permanent Representatives.
12. The Council could also usefully establish sub-committees of some of its members to prepare recommendations on particular aspects of the matter and to report back to the Council.
13. The Council may also wish to consider formulating certain questions, which could then be referred to or discussed with representatives of outside interests, such as the NATO Parliamentarians

11/2/67