

NATO SECRETFUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE18th October, 1967BRIEF

You may wish to say:

"We have reached another point in the process of working out the Future Tasks of the Alliance when we must take a number of decisions on how we should proceed further.

As you all know, the Rapporteurs met at Ditchley Park last week, on 11th October, to review and compare the findings of their reports. At this meeting, they prepared an objective summary of the reports which, they felt, might be of assistance to the Special Group, and copies of which you received yesterday. I did not circulate the reports themselves because I understand they have been sent direct to all delegations; but I consider that from now on they are, officially and in their final form, at the disposal of the allied governments for their consideration. Thus, the Rapporteurs have completed their assignment and the matter now rests with the Special Group.

As I see it, there are three questions of procedure:

- 1) When will the Special Group meet? The wish has been expressed that it should meet as soon as possible, but capitals must also have enough time to prepare their positions. All things considered, it seems to me that the week 30th October to 4th November seems best, even though 1st November is All Saints day. To help our discussion, I might perhaps suggest Friday, 3rd November. An alternative date, if it is not considered too early, is Friday, 27th October. That is the first question we should try to answer this morning.

- 2) The second question, which we may not be able to decide at present but which we should consider is: who should be entrusted with writing the draft of the report to Ministers after the Special Group has completed its discussion? Different methods have been envisaged and it is up to you to suggest the best one.
- 3) The third question, which is related to the second and which we should also begin to consider, is: on what basis is the report to be prepared? I think it should take into account principally the discussions which are going to take place in the Special Group, as well as the main points raised in the four reports, if a large measure of agreement is reached in the Special Group about them.

May I have your comments?