

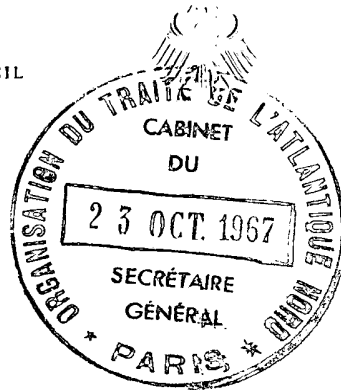
NATO UNCLASSIFIED AND PUBLIC DISCLOSED

GERMAN DELEGATION
TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

DÉLÉGATION ALLEMANDE
AU CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE-NORD

20-02-5/3623/67 geh.

Brussels, 23 October 1967



SECRET

2 copies

Copy No. 1

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs has instructed me in the absence of Ambassador Grewe to transmit to you the following letter, the original of which will arrive here shortly:

"Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Your visit to Bonn on 9 October afforded me a welcome opportunity for an exchange of views on the future of the Alliance. In the meantime there have been new developments as a result of the meeting at Ditchley Park and the discussions among the Permanent Representatives. It seems appropriate to me that I should also inform you about the talks I had in Paris on 16 and 17 October 1967 with Minister Couve de Murville about these questions.

Couve was of the opinion that there was no sense in creating new difficulties. An arrangement providing that the policy of each country should be brought up for discussion in NATO was not acceptable. Naturally, the situation was different with regard to questions like that of Berlin, since the Alliance had been established for the purpose of averting immediate threats. In such cases a common position was necessary. For the rest, however, the Alliance should continue its work as

SECRET

His Excellency Manlio Brosio,
Secretary General,
NATO

B r u s s e l s

previously and carry on with consultations by means of mutual information. This could also be the result of the Ministerial Meeting in December which, he said, was not bound by the reports submitted by the rapporteurs.

I expounded the considerations which led to the Harmel study and pointed to the necessity of arriving at certain conclusions. We agreed that as soon as the paper worked out in Ditchley Park has been circulated to the member governments, representatives of both countries should jointly examine whether a basis for discussion in the Ministerial Meeting could be found.

The comments of the French Foreign Minister gave me the impression that the French attitude has not yet been fixed in every respect. We shall continue our endeavours to win French support for a solution that is in the common interest of the Alliance.

Accept, Mr. Secretary General, the expression of my high consideration.

(signed) Brandt "

Yours sincerely



(DIRK ONCKEN)

Deputy Permanent Representative

DER BUNDESMINISTER
DES AUSWÄRTIGEN

Bonn, 18 October 1967

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Your visit to Bonn on 9 October afforded me a welcome opportunity for an exchange of views on the future of the Alliance. In the meantime there have been new developments as a result of the meeting at Ditchley Park and the discussions among the Permanent Representatives. It seems appropriate to me that I should also inform you about the talks I had in Paris on 16 and 17 October 1967 with Minister Couve de Murville about these questions.

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Bruxelles

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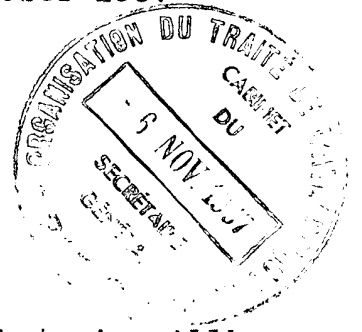
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Accept, Mr. Secretary General, the expression of my high consideration.



DER BUNDESMINISTER
 DES AUSWÄRTIGEN

Bonn, den 18. Oktober 1967



Sehr geehrter Herr Generalsekretär,

Ihr Besuch in Bonn am 9. Oktober 1967 hat mir willkommene Gelegenheit zu einem Gedankenaustausch über die Zukunft der Allianz gegeben. Inzwischen haben sich durch die Zusammenkunft von Ditchley Park und die Erörterungen im Kreise der Ständigen Vertreter neue Entwicklungen ergeben. Es scheint mir angebracht, Sie auch über die Gespräche zu unterrichten, die ich am 16. und 17. Oktober 1967 in Paris mit Minister Couve de Murville über diese Fragen geführt habe.

Couve war der Ansicht, daß es keinen Sinn habe, neue Schwierigkeiten zu schaffen. Eine Regelung, wonach die Politik jedes Landes in NATO zur Diskussion gestellt werden soll, sei nicht akzeptabel. Anders sei es natürlich in Fragen wie Berlin, da die Allianz zum Zwecke der Abwehr unmittelbarer Bedrohungen geschaffen sei. In solchen Fällen sei eine gemeinsame Haltung notwendig. Im übrigen aber sollte die Allianz weiterarbeiten wie bisher und die Konsultationen durch gegenseitige Informationen fortsetzen. Dies könne auch das Ergebnis der Ministerkonferenz im Dezember sein, die nicht durch die von den Berichterstattern vorgelegten Berichte gebunden sei.

Ich habe die Überlegungen dargelegt, die zu der Harmel-Studie geführt haben und auf die Notwendigkeit hingewiesen, zu gewissen Schlußfolgerungen zu gelangen. Wir haben

An den
 Generalsekretär der NATO
 Herrn Manlio Brosio

Brüssel

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vereinbart, daß Vertreter beider Länder gemeinsam prüfen sollen, ob eine Grundlage für die Erörterung in der Ministerkonferenz gefunden werden kann, sobald das in Ditchley Park ausgearbeitete Papier den Mitgliedsregierungen zugeleitet sein wird.

Ich habe aus den Äußerungen des französischen Außenministers den Eindruck gewonnen, daß die französische Haltung noch nicht in jeder Beziehung festgelegt ist. Wir werden unsere Bemühungen fortsetzen, die Franzosen für eine Lösung zu gewinnen, die im gemeinsamen Interesse der Allianz liegt.

Genehmigen Sie, Herr Generalsekretär, den Ausdruck meiner vorzüglichen Hochachtung



15/11/67 y