

Meeting held on 4th July, 1967

NATO CONFIDENTIALII. ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Document: C-M(67)38

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the Chairman's report in C-M(67)38 of the last meeting of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group, held in Greece from 18th to 21st April, concentrated on a summary of the discussion of the specific subject of that meeting, namely "The Problem of Balance within the Atlantic Alliance in the 1970s". The Council was invited to take note of the Chairman's report and to consider arrangements for the Group's next meeting. He therefore asked representatives whether they had any comments to make on the report and whether they could accept the Canadian Government's invitation to hold the next meeting of the Group from 23rd to 27th October, 1967. He understood that these dates had had to be fixed in advance in view of the Montreal Exposition and the subsequent difficulty in obtaining accommodation. Finally, he asked representations whether they could agree to the subject proposed for discussion at the next meeting of the Group, namely "How and to what extent will changes in the Communist world affect the foreign policies of Communist countries and how should the West react?".

19. The CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE confirmed his Authorities' invitation to the Group to hold its next meeting in Canada from 23rd to 27th October, 1967. Commenting on the report in C-M(67)38, he congratulated the Chairman of the Group on its excellent quality and on the very useful work accomplished by the Group, and suggested that the report be communicated to the Rapporteur of Sub-Group 2 of the Special Group on the Future Tasks of the Alliance.

20. The CHAIRMAN stated that this had already been done.

21. The TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE, supporting the remarks of the Canadian Representative regarding the quality of the report, asked whether it would be more appropriate for its contents to be discussed in the Council or in Sub-Groups 2 and 3 of the Special Group.

22. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the question of the relationship between the normal activities of the Council and the study of the future tasks of the Alliance had been raised on previous occasions. In his view, the work being undertaken in the Special Group and in its Sub-Groups should not prevent the Council from carrying out normal business such as the examination of the report by the Chairman of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group.

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23. The TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE said that paragraph 5 of the report seemed to give an erroneous impression. On the question of narrowing the existing gap between North America and Europe, he wondered whether the European partners of the Alliance should, in fact, feel "less dependent, or dominated by the overwhelming power of the United States", and he doubted whether they had any real feeling of frustration, as the report seemed to indicate. The Group appeared to be making a generalisation for all European countries which was somewhat exaggerated. In future, he suggested that it might refrain from making generalised statements and might examine specific topics on an individual basis.

24. The UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE said he was ready to take note of the report and to approve the arrangements proposed for the next meeting of the Group. The United States participants considered the last meeting of the Group to have been very useful and the report in C-M(67)38 to provide a well-balanced summary of the lengthy discussions. He noted that each paragraph was of the greatest relevance to the current study on the future tasks of the Alliance and felt that the procedure whereby the Chairman prepared a report on his own initiative should be maintained in future. He tended to support the view of the Turkish Representative that generalisations regarding the state of relations between North America and Europe were difficult to sustain and usually without value. He approved, however, the practical line of approach suggested in the report for the development in Europe of analytical and other types of work on a co-operative basis that were required to ensure the greatest possible participation in joint decision-making within the Alliance. He had been particularly struck by the conclusion of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group, whose members were not in the main stream of NATO affairs, that NATO continued to be of the very highest relevance in the modern world; this conclusion would be of considerable importance for the current study on the future tasks of the Alliance. However, emphasis on the relationship between the work of the Special Group and that of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group should not ~~lead to any modification of the latter's current practice of holding discussions on a personal and long-term basis.~~ lead to any modification of the latter's current practice of holding discussions on a personal and long-term basis. Finally, he suggested that the Chairman might communicate the report as a useful basis document to all members of the four Sub-Groups of the Special Group.

25. The GREEK REPRESENTATIVE said he could approve the report in C-M(67)38 which had been very well drawn up and had very adequately taken account of the future tasks of the Alliance. Drawing attention to paragraph 26, he said that his Authorities attached very great importance to NATO's future rôle in the field of East-West Relations. He supported the suggestion of the United States Representative, that the report be communicated to all members of the four Sub-Groups of the Special Group, or else directly to the Special Group itself.

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Agreeing to the subject proposed for discussion at the next meeting of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group, he suggested that the Group might examine the question of the future tasks of the Alliance in the long-term, rather than confine itself to a study of how the West should react to changes in the Communist world in the immediate future.

26. The COUNCIL:

- (1) took note of the report by the Chairman of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group in C-M(67)38 and of the comments and suggestions to which the report had given rise;
- (2) requested the Chairman to communicate this report to the members of all four Sub-Groups of the Special Group on the Future Tasks of the Alliance;
- (3) approved the arrangements proposed for the next meeting of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group.