

de Ranzitz

Interventie DGPZ in N.A.R. op 7 november 1967.
 (NAVO toekomst-studie)

(X)

Mr. Chairman,

Today, we enter into the final phase of our study on the future of the Alliance. Let me first, in a few words, recapitulate our present position.

On December 16th of last year, the 15 Ministers decided that the Council would undertake "to study the future tasks which face the Alliance... in order to strengthen the Alliance as a factor for a durable peace." The Ministerial Resolution provided that, "in carrying out this study at a high political level", the Council would "utilize the most appropriate possible procedures for fulfilling its mandate". Accordingly, the Permanent Council constituted, in February, "an open-ended Special Group of Representatives designated by governments," which was commissioned to make a final report for the Ministerial December meeting. In its turn, the Special Group established four sub groups, and five Member governments nominated rapporteurs, who were invited to prepare reports on specific subjects. The rapporteurs, it was agreed, would closely consult with their respective sub groups, but they would draft their reports exclusively on their own, personal responsibility. Last month, the rapporteurs completed their reports, which have now been submitted for discussion in our Special Group.

*Agree with Council
 also with regard to
 publicity*

We are now here - as I said - to begin with the final, and most important part of our task. That is, to prepare a report for

- the next -

the next Ministerial meeting - thereby taking full account of the Ministerial Resolution, and starting from the reports by the 5 rapporteurs, *written by Pons & Sj. Pons*

within the Treaty

I shall limit myself today, however, to some preliminary comments, in which our views will be given on the most salient features ~~that are mostly of an institutional character~~. I trust that there shall be further opportunities to examine the contents of these challenging papers in greater detail.

I should like to start out with telling you that my government see this study on the future tasks of NATO as a renewed effort to arrive at an accelerated modernization and a further improvement of political collaboration in the framework of our Alliance. In saying this, it is not in any way my intention to detract from the preeminence of our all important collective defense effort, on which the stability in Europe, and hence, our freedom and independence, are based. *The independence*

between these two points is evident and has been very clearly set out by Mr. Kennel.

The Netherlands Government believe that the report, which the Special Group will have to draft for the Council, should, in accordance with its terms of reference, open with a short history of the events that led to the creation of NATO followed by a summary of its development since then. In our opinion, this part of our report can be based on the lucid resumé and analysis which Monsieur Spaak gave in his paper.

Monsieur Spaak has given eloquent expression to a concept that underlies explicitly or implicitly all four reports. It is that the Alliance should more than before be used as a

clearing house for the examination and discussion of new ideas arising in the various capitals. To attain this goal we, of course, depend on the readiness of the allies to submit and discuss - at an early stage and whenever possible - intentions and initiatives directed towards furthering Western security and detente between East and West.

Monsieur Spaak's remarks concerning the possibilities that are open to Europe, provided it sets itself to achieve a greater cohesion, meet with our complete agreement. As you know, my government share his belief that to arrive at this greater cohesion the accession of other European countries to the European Communities is an essential condition.

As we think that all matters of importance in particular those regarding peace and security should be submitted to our allies, it follows that we welcome Mr. Kohler's suggestion for a high level committee on arms control and disarmament.

The creation of such a body would at the same time disprove allegations that the West is neither equipped nor prepared to study these questions seriously.

2/ We also agree with Mr. Kohler that increased cooperation in military research and production is desirable. To this end, more often than before organisations for joint production should be set up within the framework of the Alliance. Especially European members would benefit from such joint ventures.

We would like to support the proposal in the interesting report of Mr Watson and

3/ Mr Schütz (to create - and I quote - "a special body, responsible to the North Atlantic Council,) to study on a continuing basis all substantial issues....related to a general settlement in Europe, European security and procedural approaches to East-West negotiations in this field."

We think that this body - in close cooperation with the Committee on disarmament and arms control - should cover all aspects of East-West relations.

Apart from a continuous exchange of views on major problems like the German question - keeping in mind the quadripartite responsibilities - ~~we~~ should aim at further improving consultation on and harmonisation of our respective bilateral activities directed toward détente.

Referring to the rather difficult subject my compatriot Professor Patijn has treated in his well balanced report "On Developments in Regions outside the NATO area" - I would like to read out to you the paper that has been circulated on this delegation's request.

cic Patijn stuk

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These were my preliminary remarks, in which I only touched upon the most important and substantially institutional aspects of the studies before us. Going into greater detail would need further collective study and discussion of the material at our disposition. We are ready and willing to engage in these studies and discussions at any moment this Special Group or at a later stage the Council might think opportune.