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The North Atlantic Treaty does not provide for allied actions outside the treaty area. What it does provide for is consultation on any threat to the security of any member from any part of the world. Peace and stability in other regions clearly are highly relevant to our own future. This is why the Alliance, by the regular meetings of their regional experts and other means, has for long been engaged in consultation on developments outside the Atlantic area. [However, since "collective discussion is not an end in itself" - as the Committee of Three Wise Men have rightly stressed as early as eleven years ago - Parties, when consulting together, will try to harmonize their policies to the largest possible extent.] This is of particular importance whenever new developments affect the relative power and influence of the Communist world, regardless of whether these are brought about by deliberate actions of Eastern capitals or not.

Moreover, the Allies are called upon to take "into account the broader interests of the whole international community", as again the Three Wise Men said in their lucid report.

Peace and stability being indivisible, the Alliance cannot live in isolation.

L. A. v. Brown

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Having - in the past - accepted these findings, we should accept the implication that the Alliance should also be called upon to serve as a clearing house for national policies and as a braintrust for the identification and formulation of the common interest.

We should therefore favour a renewed effort to intensify common scrutiny of developments in specific regions outside the Treaty area, even before these confront us with acute danger. It may well be that by such an increased effort of fact finding and evaluation certain conclusions will eventually urge themselves upon all members of the North Atlantic Council. As for the adhoc groups or committees that should be created to study and evaluate the situation and to advise on the measures to be applied, participation of those members that have special knowledge of or interest in the subject should be welcomed.

For the moment an adhoc group or committee for the Mediterranean area should be established. In further discussion the desirability of creating other groups for instance on China could be considered.

*Med. Crisis
Mediterranean
possible threat to our
securities*

Machinery

Committee

