



ORGANISATION DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

2

BRUXELLES 39

41.00.40  
TEL. : 41.44.00  
41.44.90



NATO CONFIDENTIAL

To: Secretary General  
c.c. Deputy Secretary General  
Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs  
Assistant Secretary General for Defence Planning  
and Policy

From: Executive Secretary

Private record of a meeting of Permanent Representatives  
held on Tuesday, 23rd January, 1968 to continue  
discussion on the follow-up to the Harmel Report

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its last private meeting on 17th January, the Council had reached a number of decisions on the follow-up actions to be taken on the Harmel Report (decisions recorded in PO/68/44).

On paragraphs 11 and 12 it was decided to refer the matter to the Political Committee meeting at a more senior level. On paragraph 14 the decision was to defer discussion regarding studies on the Mediterranean until the following week.

The present discussion would, therefore, centre on paragraph 13, covering the field of arms control and disarmament, the first subject to be discussed being the mutual force reductions. He recalled that an Ad Hoc Group of the DPC had already discussed possible terms of reference of a study group on balanced force reductions. He stressed, however, that before going any further Permanent Representatives would have to consider whether this Ad Hoc Group should continue its discussion as Fourteen or as Fifteen.

Secondly, the Political Committee had just met to consider the technical items which might be considered at the meeting with Disarmament Experts. The items which had been retained by the Political Committee had just been circulated in a blue in order to help the discussion.

Thirdly, the Permanent Representatives would have to conclude their discussion on the United States proposal for the subject to be put on the agenda of the Political Committee meeting with Disarmament Experts.

They would also have to consider the Canadian proposal that the four Western delegates at the Geneva Conference come to that meeting to discuss with the Committee the follow-up in the field of disarmament and arms control.

Finally, they should ask the Committee and Disarmament Experts to make recommendations on the procedures to be followed in carrying out the studies that they had proposed. A number of procedures might be envisaged - creating permanent machinery as proposed by the Danish Representative, continuing the meeting of Experts as at present, or at more frequent intervals, creating sub-groups.

The GERMAN, GREEK and NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVES were without instructions on mutual force reductions and they, therefore, asked that the matter be postponed until the following week.

As a preliminary remark the GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE said he would prefer that this question be studied in a group of fifteen members. He thought it inadvisable that the work would be split too much between bodies of Fourteen and Fifteen.

The FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE was prepared to state his Government's position but had no objection to the postponement.

A discussion then followed on the opportunity of having a preliminary discussion on disarmament in general.

The UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE stressed that there was some urgency in discussing the agenda for the next Disarmament Experts meeting.

The ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE also felt that it might have been useful for the Permanent Representatives to be aware of the reservations he had to make on the guide proposed by the Committee of Political Advisers.

The CHAIRMAN stressed that there was a close link between mutual force reductions and disarmament in general. He, therefore, wished that the whole discussion be postponed so that all delegations could obtain instructions.

The meeting was then adjourned until Monday, 29th January at 4.00 p.m.

*M. F. Jordan*  
*for Executive Secretary*

25th January, 1968

*27/1/68*  
*g*