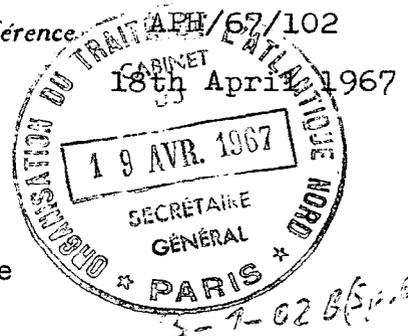


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Référence: TRAITE APH/67/102



To : Deputy Secretary General
ASG for Political Affairs
Directeur du Cabinet

From: Acting ASG for Economics & Finance

Subject: Special Study on Future Tasks of the Alliance

At the Secretary General's luncheon today for Ambassadors, Rapporteurs etc. particularly engaged in this study, the question was raised whether, and to what extent, the assistance of "external" individuals or bodies should be sought. Examples of individuals mentioned were MM. Alistair Buchan and George Kennan, and of organisations, the Institute of Strategic Studies of London.

2. The general feeling was that this should be left largely to the discretion of Sub-Groups. There would naturally be no objection to rapporteurs making initial contact with individuals who they thought might have a contribution to offer, and it would be open to any delegation to propose to a Sub-Group that particular bodies or individuals might be consulted. The possibility was not excluded that the Special Group might compile some kind of "master list", but it was felt that this idea should be approached with some caution. Any contacts with outside individuals or bodies would of course be on a strictly confidential basis, but several speakers expressed the view that from a public relations point of view it would be a good thing to be able to say that outside opinion was being canvassed.

3. The suggestion was also made, and accepted by the Secretary General, that the International Staff should compile a selection of reasonably reputable and authoritative writings on the subjects that the various Sub-Groups will be addressing. It was suggested that it might well be more convenient, both for the eminent individual and for a Sub-Group, if his contribution could be read rather than delivered orally; and also that there might be advantage in reading opinions that had been expressed in a more general context as compared with hearing answers to questions framed within the context of a particular study.

4. I am initiating action to this end within the E & F Division in respect of the field of activity of Sub-Group No.3. The Secretary General has asked me to inform you of this development and to invite you to be good enough to initiate similar action in respect of the Sub-Groups upon which you represent him.

A.P. Hockaday

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