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PRESS RELEASE (86)373rd December 1986NATO TO MARK 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THREE WISE MEN'S REPORT"

NATO will highlight the 30th anniversary of the Three Wise Men's report, which Secretary General Lord Carrington says has marked "virtually every aspect of the Alliance's working philosophy and operations," during the North Atlantic Council's ministerial session 11-12th December.

Officially named the "Report of the Committee of Three on Non-Military Co-operation in NATO," it was prepared by Italy's Gaetano Martino, Norway's Halvard Lange and Canada's Lester Pearson and approved by the North Atlantic Council on 13th December 1956.

Many features of NATO which are taken for granted today result from the innovations proposed by the Three Wise Men. Indeed, Lord Carrington maintains that "there are few events in the life of the Alliance which have left so lasting an imprint on its purposes and operating methods". It is a result of the report, for instance, that:

- the Secretary General presides over ministerial meetings;
- these meetings, once a year in rotation, take place in capitals;
- NATO has a Political Committee, an Economic Committee, a Science and Fellowship programme, and a NATO Information Service Youth Officer.

Perhaps most important was the Report's recommendation for institutionalizing the obligation for full and timely consultations. In suggesting this, the Three Wise Men argued that:

- "NATO must become more than a military Alliance",
- "Security is today far more than a military matter",
- "the interests of member states are not confined to the area covered by the Treaty".

A reprint of the Report, as it originally appeared in the "NATO Letter" of 1st January 1957, has been made available to the media. Lord Carrington, in his preface, sees the political thrust of the 1956 Report reaffirmed by the 1967 Harmel Report and by the 1979 Dual Track Decision: NATO's "dualism" - "collective defence efforts coupled with a continued Allied political willingness to negotiate".

Further anniversary events include:

- The Belgian Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, will commemorate the work of the Three Wise Men in his dinner speech on 11 December; so will the Secretary General, Lord Carrington, and the Italian Foreign Minister, Giulio Andreotti, Président d'Honneur of the North Atlantic Council, during the Opening Session of the Council on the same day;
- The 1956 Report will be the subject of a display in the press area at NATO Headquarters;
- NATO's latest film, "The Third Dimension", will be introduced to the press in the Joseph Luns Press Theatre on 10 December at 10.45; a TV clip of the film will be provided to Eurovision.