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ASG (PA)

NATO CONFIDENTIALFUTURE TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE

Draft Text for a Paper of the Secretary General  
to be circulated at the Meeting of the Special  
Group on Monday, 13th March, 1967

I submit herewith, as a contribution to the discussions and decisions of the Special Group, a draft work programme. This programme takes into account the points made in the discussions of the Special Group on 6th March and in the various papers submitted by Delegations on that occasion or subsequently,

I - SUBJECTS

1. Developments in the foreign policy of the USSR and East European countries and their impact upon the Alliance.
2. General political aims of the Alliance in East-West relations: Allied views of the purpose and practice of détente, European security and the German problem, the nature of a European settlement, ideological basis of the Alliance, and, finally, the needs and limits of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.
3. Free Europe and its specific contribution to the aims of the Alliance: possibilities of inter-European cooperation within the Alliance and the relations of European member countries with the United States and Canada.

4. General defence policy of the Alliance: evolution of collective and regional security; principles of a strategy for the Alliance, effects of various proposals - arms control and disarmament, balanced reduction of forces, nuclear arrangements - on the balance of power and forces.
5. The relations of the Alliance with regions outside the Treaty area and its responsibilities towards world order generally.
6. The consultative process in NATO (political, military, nuclear), its purposes, its limitations, the problem of commitment.
7. The image of the Alliance vis-à-vis a sociologically changing public opinion.

Remarks:

The studies in these areas will be followed in due course by a number of questions which, in my view, should be formulated by the sub-groups which will deal with each of the above mentioned subjects. For this reason, I have not in this draft programme formulated any such questions.

II - ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES

It is, I believe, generally agreed that six or seven open-ended sub groups will deal with each of the above mentioned subjects. (However, the Special Group may consider that there is no immediate need for establishing a sub group for the seventh subject.) These sub groups

will study their given subject on the basis of a paper written either by the International Staff or by a national rapporteur (who, at the same time, will act as chairman of the sub group). // It is understood that all Delegations as well as the International Secretariat have the right to submit additional papers to the various sub groups in the course of their discussions. // The International Secretariat will participate in all sub groups and will be responsible for the writing of their reports to the Special Group. These reports will, of course, be based on the discussion in the sub groups and will be submitted to them for approval. // The International Secretariat will also be responsible for drafting the Special Group's final report to Council and/or Ministers. In this way a proper coordination of the various reports will be assured.

The open-ended sub groups will be responsible for formulating the various questions to which their studies give rise; they will also decide whether questions should be put to outside organizations or individuals and, if so, to whom and in what manner.

I would point out that in view of the time available it is unlikely that these studies will be concluded before the June meeting of Ministers. It has also been pointed out that the synthesis of the studies of the various sub groups is a very important element of the coming exercise. It would therefore seem to me that both this synthesis and the definition of the future tasks of the Alliance must necessarily take place after the June meeting of Ministers. In these circumstances, the Special Group may feel that the interim report to be submitted to Ministers in June should have the character of a brief progress report.