

ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION

PLACE DU MARÉCHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY - PARIS (XVI^e) - TÉL. KLE. 50-20

BUREAU DU REPRÉSENTANT
DU GROUPE PERMANENT

OFFICE OF THE STANDING GROUP
REPRESENTATIVE

LOM 25/64

20 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR : Secretary, Standing Group

SUBJECT : Mr Foster's meeting with NATO Council on Disarmament

Reference : LOSTAN 5449

1. On 18 January 1964, the Council met with Mr Foster and discussed the policy issues which will arise at Geneva Conference starting on 21 January. Mr Foster, in his opening statement said that President Johnson asked him to outline to the Council these disarmament problems and to seek Council's views on some initiatives which the US propose to take during the Geneva conference.

2. He went on to say that the United States fundamentally intend to stress the three main goals as expressed in the joint statement of agreed principles by Mr McCloy and Mr Zorin in 1961. The US believes there has been a change in the state of mind of the Soviets as indicated by their agreement in three areas, viz, the hot line, the limited test ban treaty, and the limitation on stationing weapons of mass destruction in orbit.

3. US plans for the coming session had been initially discussed in Washington with representatives of the three allies at Geneva. Taking as a starting point the Irish resolution in the U.N the US intended to advance a number of measures designed to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons. These were :

(a) to ban the transfer of nuclear weapons to States not now controlling them. The transfer of fissile material for peaceful purposes could be undertaken under appropriate international safe guards.

(b) Major nuclear powers should agree to accept increasingly the inspection they recommended for others.

(c) To agree principles for nuclear free zones as announced in the UN Assembly. Such zones would prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Latin America was an example.

(d) To reach agreement on banning all nuclear tests under proper control. This would be an extension of the existing treaty. There was no indications that the Soviets would be interested in concluding such an agreement with the essential Western safeguards needed to prevent clandestine tests.

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4. Mr Foster said the US intended to continue their attempt to halt production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, as proposed in the President's State of the Union message. The US was also studying the possibility of introducing a verified freeze on the level of nuclear delivery systems. He said that there was no firm government view on this as yet, but he felt the proposals were worthy of close study. He explained that US basic thinking on this was that the numbers of nuclear weapons available in East and West armouries to-day were sufficient to destroy the Northern hemisphere. During the past 3 years there had been a large build up in inventories, and the US considered that the introduction of a verified freeze on the future production, of numbers and sizes of nuclear weapons, including also anti-ballistic missiles, would be a worth while measure, both from the point of view of the security of the world, and the economic use of world resources.

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5. After referring to Observation Posts (reported in reference), Mr Foster referred to the question of the reduction in military budgets, and proposed there should be technical discussions to exchange information on the make up of military budget on both sides and on the effects of reported reductions. These discussions might start on a bilateral US/Soviet basis through the co-chairman at Geneva.

6. On the question of measures for general and complete disarmament, Mr Foster said the US position remained the same as tabled in April 1962 and were prepared to discuss the items on the agreed agenda such as foreign bases, force levels and military expenditures in more detail than in the past.

7. In general discussion the following points were made.

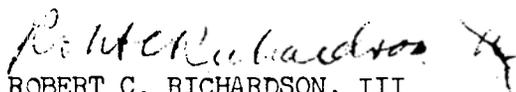
(a) Mr Foster confirmed that the US position regarding the principles to be applied to nuclear free zones remained unchanged. He added that the US believed non-armament was easier to attain than disarmament. The US position in relation to the Kekkomen plan had not changed.

(b) Mr Foster thought that the Soviets wanted to continue discussions at Geneva, but were looking for possible small steps rather than substantial progress towards general and complete disarmament. They would continue to exploit Geneva for propaganda. They may put forward a revised Rapacki plan claimed to be more acceptable to the West, but the US position would remain as before i.e. that the plan was unacceptable.

(c) The Soviets continue to maintain that the MLF was a disguised attempt by the West to transfer control of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear Allied nations, and claim that a non-dissemination agreement would be possible immediately if the West would abandon the MLF proposal.

8. Sec.Gen. thanked Mr Foster for briefing the Council and said that in addition to the normal oral and written reports from Geneva, it would be useful to arrange for special meetings with experts from Geneva on specific items of importance at any time they might arise.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE


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