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PRESS RELEASE (68)10

Brussels, 9th October, 1968  
For immediate release

NATO TO ESTABLISH AN INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY GROUP

A NATO Industrial Advisory Group will soon be added to the Alliance's growing list of cooperative agencies, in accordance with a decision of the NATO Conference of National Armaments Directors which was today endorsed by the North Atlantic Council.

In addition to its advisory role to the Conference of National Armaments Directors, the new organization will provide a forum for presentation of significant problems to a cross-section of NATO industry and for discussion of NATO research, development and production policies and practices in so far as they affect industry. It will be a focal point for review and discussion of special studies and problems of industry which should be brought to the attention of NATO, and will work to improve the flow of information to and from industry in NATO countries.

The idea for a NATO Industrial Advisory Group grew out of an Experimental Consultative Conference of Industrialists organized by the Conference of National Armaments Directors which took place at NATO Headquarters in Brussels in May. It was attended by more than fifty leading industrialists from all NATO countries, excepting Luxembourg and Iceland, as well as government representatives, members of NATO Delegations and of Alliance's civilian and military staff. NATO has long been interested in improving methods of co-operation among its member nations in the development and production of equipment for its forces, and the enthusiastic response of the industrialists attending the May meeting led to the decision to establish the Advisory Group as a NATO organ for industry/government co-operation.