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19th June, 1974

ATLANTIC DECLARATION CEREMONY

STATEMENT BY DR. JOSEPH M.A.H. LUNS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

For over a year we have given thought in a spirit of solidarity to a definition of the principles and objectives of the Alliance, established a quarter of a century ago. We had to re-examine our relationships in the light of the profound changes which had taken place in every field of international activity. Now we have completed this process, not without some difficulty. We have before us the Declaration on Atlantic Relations which I will ask you to approve in just a moment.

The Declaration, reflecting a perspective commensurate with the challenges of the future, serves to guide the Alliance in its vital tasks of maintaining peace, improving East-West relations and promoting greater security and well-being.

Indeed, the result has been most fruitful. The Declaration is a new departure, a signpost for the future, and a source of great encouragement. Beyond the text, which stands as an affirmation of our common interests and perceptions, I believe that we have already at the present meeting shown our determination to deepen our co-operation and to bring fresh impetus to all activities of the Alliance.

It is in that spirit that I would now request your solemn approval of the Declaration on Atlantic Relations before us. I shall proceed country by country in alphabetical order :