


19th July 1967

To: Secretary General

cc: Deputy Secretary General   
Acting ASG for Economics & Finance  
Directeur du Cabinet

From: ASG for Political Affairs

Subject: Future Tasks of the Alliance - Future Procedure

The purpose of this paper is to explore briefly the manner in which this exercise may unfold in the future.

2. According to present schedules rapporteurs will complete the first draft of their reports sometime between mid September and beginning October. The four sub-Groups will also meet in that period to consider these drafts.

3. The basis on which the exercise is being conducted is to give full freedom to the rapporteurs in the preparation of their reports. It may consequently be expected that these reports will meet objections in the sub-Groups. Presumably, rapporteurs will be able to write second drafts that will meet a number of these objections. However, it may also be expected that unless these reports are watered down to the lowest common denominator, it will be necessary to forward them to the Special Group with comments or reservations on the part of dissenting Delegations.

4. It may then be envisaged that sometime in the second half of October the Special Group will receive the four reports with annexed comments. It does not seem realistic to plan on the Special Group then taking these four reports and writing an entirely new document. Nor is it realistic to believe that the Special Group will be better able to iron out the differences that were revealed in the sub-Groups' discussion of these reports.

5. In conclusion then, the most realistic procedure that may be envisaged at this time is for the Special Group to hold a number of meetings around mid-October to review and discuss the four reports before it. Then, on the basis of these discussions, the International Secretariat might be asked to prepare a summary note which would include the major conclusions in the reports on which agreement had been reached together with the salient points made in the Special Group's meetings. This single report might then be forwarded to Ministers with or without the four rapporteurs' reports annexed. It will be a classified document.

6. It is still a little early to envisage the nature of a report that would be made public or how such a report might be produced.