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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED NATO INFORMATION  
TO THE INTERIM COMMISSION

Note by the Deputy Secretary General

At its meeting on 10th October (+) the Council considered the question of the release of classified information to the Interim Commission and approved at that time a procedure covering the release of certain information on the Annual Review (++) . At its meeting on 22nd October (+++) the Council requested the Secretary General to consider and make proposals as to the procedure by which further classified NATO information might be made available to the Interim Commission.

2. Those member Governments of the North Atlantic Council which are signatory of the EDC have, on the one hand, an obligation with respect to all members of NATO on the handling of NATO classified information and, on the other hand, they have an obligation within the framework of the proposed European Defence Community on the exchange of certain information about their respective national programmes. Under present NATO security regulations there is a conflict between these two obligations, although it is clearly not the intention of the Council that NATO should in any way impede the work of the Interim Commission.

3. After careful examination of the issues involved in this conflict, I believe that the best solution would be for the Council to authorise the five member Governments which are signatory of the EDC to release to the Interim Commission, at their own discretion, any information on their own national programmes, even when this information has been compiled under a NATO security classification, provided:

- (a) that such information is handled under the comparable security classifications established within the Interim Commission; and
- (b) that such information as is released does not refer to NATO plans, programmes, goals, requirements or deficiencies.

4. This paper will be placed on the agenda for the meeting of the Council on the 19th November, and I have asked the Standing Group to be ready to give their views by that date.

(Signed) H. VAN VREDENBURCH

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIIe.

- (+) C-R(52)24, Item I.
- (++) C-M(52)85.
- (+++) C-R(52)26, Item V.