

related questions of strategy, force requirements and resources, which had been initiated by ministers at their session in Ottawa in May 1963. Force goals for the period 1966 through 1970 are being worked out, as the first of a series of steps designed to secure a closer alignment between NATO military requirements and national force plans within the agreed strategic concept of a forward defence posture. They accepted in principle the introduction of new procedures designed to improve the annual process of reviewing the defence efforts of member countries and agreeing upon their force contributions. These procedures, by projecting alliance force goals and country plans five years ahead each year, are designed to enhance the capacity of the alliance to adapt its defence plans to changes both in military technology and in the international situation.

Ministers instructed the Council in Permanent Session to review the organizational and financial basis of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force.

The Secretary-General, as Chairman of a Special Committee of Defence Ministers, made a progress report to the Council. The ministers had a discussion on this report.

The Ministers approved a resolution inviting the Council in Permanent Session to set up a programme for defence assistance to Greece and Turkey for 1965 with the participation of the greatest possible number of member countries, and to ensure that the commitments taken in this respect are implemented with the least possible delay. At the ministerial meeting in the spring of 1966, the Council in Permanent Session will report on the implementation of this programme, and submit proposals for a programme for 1966 in the light of relevant defence planning studies.

Ministers heard a report from the Secretary-General on his activities under the "Watching Brief" in regard to Greek-Turkish relations entrusted to his predecessor by the Council at their meeting in The Hague in May 1964. They confirmed their support for the activities of the Secretary-General under his "Watching Brief" mission and agreed that they should continue. They also reiterated their support for the efforts of the United Nations to reduce tension in Cyprus and reaffirmed their determination to contribute to bringing about a peaceful, agreed and equitable solution of the problem in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The Council endorsed the Secretary-General's plea for an early resumption of constructive discussions between Greece and Turkey. Ministers expressed their confidence that the parties concerned would refrain from any action prejudicial to such a solution. Against this background, the Council stressed the importance of a speedy solution to the financial and other problems involved in the continuation of the United Nations peace-keeping operation.

Ministers approved a report on civil emergency planning. They noted that a reappraisal of civil emergency planning is being conducted and reaffirmed the importance of such planning for the protection of the civil population.

The next meeting of the North Atlantic Council at ministerial level will be held, on the invitation of the Belgian Government, in Brussels at the end of May or beginning of June, 1966.