

to be useful discussions of the general international situation, particularly on the impact on the alliance of developments in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

In these discussions we devoted more time than usual to political developments outside of what is described as the NATO treaty area. That merely reflected the increasing awareness of the NATO Governments that the security, stability and well being of an area like the Middle East, to quote one example, is essential to the maintenance of world peace, which in turn is the matter of primary concern to the NATO members.

A significant aspect of this recent meeting was the evident desire on the part of all members to strengthen the non-military side of NATO; as we increasingly realized that relations between the Western alliance and the Soviet have become a contest in terms of political judgment and action; of economic and industrial power, and not merely a contest in military strength. Having said that, it would be unwise not to add that it was recognized at our Council meeting that events in Hungary and the use of naked military force there by the Soviet Union, which use might have had far-reaching effects; these events have underlined the absolute necessity of maintaining also our military defensive strength as we become more and more preoccupied with the political and economic aspects of the struggle. As has been said by so many people so many times, we have to continue to do both.

It was to these problems of non-military co-operation confronting the Alliance that the Committee of Three Report addressed itself. That Report, which has been made public, was submitted to the Council and its recommendations were accepted by the Council members. Apart from maintaining defensive military strength the most important need of the NATO alliance in the present circumstances is for the development of common policies, as essential to that unity which is important as strength itself. The Committee of Three Report recognized this, also that new institutional arrangements or organizational changes or changes in structure would not in themselves meet this need.

What is required, and this is easier to say than to bring about, is a sustained will and desire on the part of member governments to work out through consultation policies which will take into account the common interests of the members of the Alliance. If that is not done and if national factors alone prevail in the formulation of policy, then the Alliance will have great difficulty in surviving. Certainly it will not develop beyond a purely military arrangement which will disappear if and when the fears and emergencies of the present lessen and disappear.