

the Treaty area. Owing to the conditions of security created and maintained by an effective common defence of the North Atlantic area, political consultation among partners allows initiatives to be taken which can contribute not only to the stability of East-West relations but also to the general well-being of mankind.

9. If progress is to be made with regard to the complex problems of a European settlement, a determination to resolve the issues must exist on all sides. The peaceful ending of the division of Europe remains a principal purpose of the alliance, the objective being a Europe that will once again be one, and a Germany that will once again be united.

10. Meanwhile, member countries are seeking further to improve relations between the peoples of Eastern Europe and Western Europe, and to diminish mutual suspicions and fears. They are convinced that further tangible results could now be obtained in the cultural, economic, scientific and technical fields.

11. Ministers directed the permanent representatives to continue to examine closely the prospects of healthy developments in East-West relations, and to prepare a full report on these questions for meetings to be attended, as far as is practicable, by the foreign ministers of the various countries. This report, which should deal with all possible initiatives in this field, would cover, *inter alia*, problems connected with European security and German reunification.

12. Ministers expressed their continuous interest in progress towards general, complete and controlled disarmament. They expressed great concern over the problem of nuclear proliferation in its world-wide implications and their determination to continue their efforts to solve this problem. In particular, the governments concerned in the 18-Power Geneva Conference reaffirmed their intention to do their utmost to achieve positive results.

13. With regard to Greek-Turkish relations, ministers took note of the Secretary-General's report on the "watching brief" and confirmed their support for the continuation of his activities in this respect. They welcomed the announcement made by the Foreign Ministers of Greece and Turkey to the effect that "the Governments of Greece and Turkey, inspired by a sincere desire to facilitate a peaceful and agreed solution of the Cyprus problem and to improve their relations, have decided to proceed to contacts and exchanges of views on the Cyprus question and on Greek-Turkish relations. The procedure to be followed during these contacts will be decided in common". The ministers reiterated their appreciation of the continued presence of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and expressed their support of the efforts of the United Nations for safeguarding peace and improving the situation in the island.

14. Ministers reaffirmed their desire to promote economic co-operation in the spirit of Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty. They acknowledged the need to join efforts in order to promote research in the scientific, technical and production fields, and achieve a wider co-operation and exchange of information so that in a world of rapid scientific progress the gap in technological achievement between Europe and North America can be narrowed.