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FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The North Atlantic Council met in Ministerial Session in Washington, D.C., on 29th, 30th and 31st May, 1984. Ministers agreed as follows:

1. The North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington on 4th April, 1949, continues to fulfil the expectations of the Allies. It is a major factor for peace and stability in an era of world-wide change and numerous conflicts. The strength of the Alliance and the solidarity born of shared values and reinforced by the practice of consultation between its sovereign member states have secured peace in the Treaty area and the freedom of its peoples.

2. The Atlantic Alliance is a defensive Alliance. None of its weapons will ever be used except in response to attack. The firm adherence of members of the Alliance to their commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty, the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act contributes to the maintenance of peace and to the strengthening of international law. Faced with the continued expansion of Soviet military strength beyond reasonable defence needs, the Allies are determined to safeguard their legitimate security interests. They look to the Soviet Union to respect these as the Allies respect the legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union.

Without seeking superiority, the Allies will maintain the conventional and nuclear forces necessary to deter and defend against aggression and to resist attempts at intimidation. To this end they will continue to seek more effective and balanced transatlantic armaments co-operation, bearing in mind the need for efficiency, economy of costs and exploiting and sharing of emerging technologies.

3. Ministers took note of the thorough appraisal called for at their last meeting with a view to achieving a more constructive East-West dialogue. They issued the "Washington Statement on East-West Relations". They reaffirmed their continued intention to work for genuine détente through building up more contacts and co-operation