

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Council met in ministerial session in Brussels, June 7 and 8, 1966.

2. The Council reviewed the state of the alliance. After a frank exchange of views, ministers agreed that the maintenance of the Atlantic alliance is as necessary today as ever, in order to safeguard the freedom and the common heritage of their peoples founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. The first aim of the Atlantic alliance is the common defence of all member countries; to this end its members are pledged, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, to maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

3. Ministers agreed to examine, in the light of the principles and obligations of the Treaty, and in a co-operative manner, the problems raised by the French memoranda of last March, in order to reach as soon as possible solutions acceptable to all concerned and which assure continued security. At this meeting the Council:

(a) noted the statement made by Mr. Luns on the discussions which had taken place on June 6 among 14 ministers;

(b) agreed to transfer the military headquarters of NATO from France;

(c) extended a unanimous invitation to the Benelux countries to provide a new site for SHAPE;

(d) agreed that some simplification of the command structure should be carried out. This will be achieved in the first instance in the Centre by combining under a single commander and in one headquarters the staffs now divided between the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief, Central Europe, and the Commanders-in-Chief of the Land and Air Forces in Central Europe. This headquarters will be moved to a new location either in Benelux or Germany;

(e) agreed that further studies will be necessary in order to establish the precise requirements and the possibilities of hospitality in the different countries, noted that the Benelux countries, the Federal Republic, the Secretary-General and the NATO military authorities had been requested to undertake these studies forthwith; and further noted that, as soon as the required information was available, final decisions would have to be taken as a matter of urgency.

(f) extended a unanimous invitation to Italy to provide a new site for the NATO Defence College;

(g) agreed that the Standing Group will be abolished and replaced by appropriate alternative arrangements, including an integrated international Military Staff;