

question, but, as I see this matter at the moment, it would seem to me that this is one of the questions about which we need not make undue haste. We must make sure that the decision with regard to the location of the Council is made only after a full assessment of all that is involved. The reason why we take this position is that, while we regret the decision of the Government of France to ask two of its allies to vacate bases in France, and while we regret their decision to withdraw from the integrated force structure, we are encouraged by the decision of the Government of France to continue in the Alliance, and I have noted very particularly the words of the French foreign minister, when he spoke to the Chamber of Deputies five weeks ago and outlined the importance, and the reason for the importance, that France attributed to its participation in the Alliance as distinguished from the military organization, and I would hope, by the attitude that I am presently taking with regard to the location of the Council, that we will be serving notice to France of our high regard for her and of the part which we believe she can continue to play in the western community and in the Alliance.

What happens to French forces in Germany, the two divisions there, I do not know. It could be that the agreement or the failure to agree, on a desired formula for the continuation of the forces of France in Germany could have a very important bearing on the question as to where the Council is to be