

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 participa-
tion 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 commu-
nity 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