

plans therefore remain valid. In view of this, and in the light of the Annual Review, the Ministers agreed that a determined effort is required to guarantee the necessary strength of the Alliance. They expressed confidence that, on the basis of the progress already achieved and in view of favourable economic developments in most NATO countries, this essential task is certainly within the ability of the Alliance as a whole.

4. The Council reaffirmed that general and controlled disarmament remains the goal of the West. Every opportunity will be taken to make progress in this direction. Until this goal is achieved, however, the Alliance cannot afford to neglect the measures necessary for its security.

5. The Ministers had a full discussion on the forthcoming negotiations between East and West and agreed on the procedures whereby NATO will continue to participate in the preparations for these negotiations. The Council will resume these discussions on December 22 after the meeting of Heads of Government, and a second communiqué will then be issued.

The Council concluded by expressing the hope that the negotiations between East and West will advance the solution of important problems and thus serve the ideals of peace and security which the Alliance has always upheld and defended.

6. At the invitation of the Turkish Government the next ministerial session of the Council will take place in Istanbul in May 1960.

ANNEX B

Final Communiqué of Western Heads of State and Government

The President of the United States of America, the President of the French Republic, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany met in Paris and at Rambouillet on the 19th, 20th and 21st of December 1959 and exchanged views on various subjects of common interest.

In the course of these meetings, consideration was given to the views expressed by the member governments of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at the meeting of the Council held in Paris from the 15th to the 17th of December.

Among the subjects discussed were East-West relations, disarmament and problems relating to Germany including Berlin. On the last point the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the principles set forth in the four-power communiqué of December 14, 1958, and the Declaration of the North Atlantic Council of December 16, 1958, on Berlin.

The Heads of State and Government agreed on the desirability of a four-power conference with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The purpose of this conference would be to consider a number of questions of mutual concern. President Eisenhower, General de