

5. The Council regretted the lack of progress on the reunification of Germany on the basis of self-determination. With regard to Berlin, the Council reaffirmed their declaration of December 16, 1958. In face of the recent Soviet threats and harassing tactics, they once again declared their determination to protect the freedom of the people of West Berlin.

## II

6. In order that the Atlantic alliance may pursue its constructive purposes in peace and without fear, confronted as it is by the menace of growing Communist military strength, the North Atlantic nations must be able to respond to any attack with whatever force might be appropriate. There must be a proper balance in the forces of the alliance of nuclear and conventional strength to provide the required flexibility. The ministers, in the light of the annual review, took note of the progress which had been made, and expressed their determination to continue their efforts to improve the deterrent and defensive strength of the alliance.

7. In this connection, the United States Government suggested the concept of an MRBM multilateral force for consideration by the alliance. The Council took note of the United States suggestion with great interest and instructed the permanent representatives to study the suggestion and related matters in detail.

The Council welcomed the assurance of the United States to maintain in the NATO area United States nuclear weapons made available to NATO.

8. At the same time, the Council agreed on the equal importance of strengthening the shield forces of NATO in other respects so that there can be no possibility of miscalculation or misunderstanding of the alliance's determination and ability to resist aggression by whatever means are appropriate and necessary.

9. The ministers noted with satisfaction the steps so far taken in response to the proposals made by defence ministers in Spring 1960 in the field of logistics and for co-operation in research, development and production of military equipment. They urged all parties concerned to press on with the projects already selected, and to study what further projects are suitable for co-operative action.

## III

10. The Ministers examined the report submitted to them on long-term planning, in particular with regard to political consultation and economic problems.

11. They reaffirmed their determination to pursue within the alliance comprehensive political consultation designed to achieve the closest possible co-ordination of their views and unity of action. They studied ways and means of achieving this result.

12. In the economic field, they welcomed the creation of the OECD which, by promoting balanced economic growth and the expansion of world trade, will benefit all the nations of the free world.