

meeting and of the five foreign ministers on disarmament questions. (Texts of the communiqué issued by the four Heads of Government on summit questions and of the invitation extended to Mr. Khrushchov are attached as Annexes B and C.) The Council took note of the proposal to be communicated to the Soviet Government regarding the opening of East-West negotiations at the summit and welcomed the intention to convene a series of East-West summit meetings, the first to be held in Paris in April (as a result of later exchanges with the U.S.S.R., the date was set for May 16). The Council approved arrangements to ensure full consultation with NATO during the preparations for these negotiations and to enable the Council and its members to play a constructive part in ensuring their success.

On disarmament, the Council discussed the report of the five foreign ministers and agreed with their decision that a date about March 15 should be proposed for the first meeting of the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee. (Text of the communiqué of the Five on disarmament is attached as Annex D.) Council approved the arrangements for full consultation between the Five and the other members of the Alliance. In addition support was obtained for a Canadian proposal instructing the Permanent Council, calling as it desires upon the NATO military authorities, to consider what further assistance it can give to plans for controlled disarmament. (The text of the communiqué issued at the conclusion of the ministerial meetings on December 22 is attached as Annex E.)

ANNEX A

NATO Ministerial Communiqué — Dec. 17, 1959

The North Atlantic Council began its regular Ministerial Session in Paris on 15th December. At the opening meeting, which marked the inauguration of the Permanent Headquarters of NATO at the Porte Dauphine, statements were made by M. Michel Debre, Prime Minister of the French Republic, and Mr. Halvard Lange, President of the Council and Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2. The Council devoted three days to a thorough discussion of the affairs of the Alliance, beginning with a review of the international situation. The Ministers unanimously reaffirmed their confidence in the North Atlantic Alliance, and agreed that it will remain indispensable during the coming years. They instructed the Permanent Council to undertake long-term planning, to cover the next ten years, on the objectives of the Alliance in the political, military, scientific and economic fields, and in regard to arms control.

The Council also agreed that various economic problems, as they relate to NATO, should form the subject of further study in the Permanent Council.

3. The Council examined the military situation. It took cognizance of the fact that Soviet military strength continues to grow. Current NATO defence