

Ministers discussed the important developments concerning Germany which have taken place since their May meeting. They welcomed the initialling of the treaty on the basis of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic on 8th November, 1972 and the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany that it is envisaged that this Treaty will be signed on 21st December, 1972 and thereafter will be submitted to the legislative bodies of the Federal Republic of Germany for approval. They took note of the statement of the Federal Foreign Minister that after the ratification of this treaty and after the domestic pre-conditions have been fulfilled the two German states will submit their applications for membership of the United Nations to be considered simultaneously by the competent organs of the world organization. Ministers took note of the declaration of the Four Powers of 9th November, 1972. In this declaration the Four Powers recorded their agreement that they will support the applications for membership in the United Nations when submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, and affirm in this connection that this membership shall in no way affect the rights and responsibilities of the Four Powers and the corresponding, related quadripartite agreements, decisions, and practices. As regards the relations between France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, Ministers noted that this declaration does not affect in any way the Convention on relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany and related Conventions and documents of 26th May, 1952 in the version of 23rd October, 1954.

On the basis of these developments, individual member governments might wish to enter into negotiations with the German Democratic Republic with a view to establishing bilateral relations. In this connection Ministers reaffirmed the solidarity of the Alliance partners in questions concerning Germany, maintained since entry of the Federal Republic of Germany into the Alliance. The member states of the Atlantic Alliance expressed their continuing support for the policy of the Federal Republic of Germany to work towards a state of peace in Europe in which the German people regains its unity through free self-determination. Accordingly, they will continue to take fully into account the special situation in Germany, which is characterized by the fact that the German people today lives in two states, that a freely agreed contractual peace settlement for Germany is still outstanding and that until such a settlement is achieved, the above-mentioned rights and responsibilities of the Four Powers relating to Berlin and Germany as a whole will continue.