

means of free elections shall be carried out in conformity with the national interests of European security". We call upon the U.S.S.R. Government to honour this pledge.

3. We have reviewed the situation in the Mideast. In line with the peaceful aims of our Alliance, we confirm the support of our governments for the independence and sovereignty of the states in this region, and our interest in the economic well-being of their peoples. We believe that the stability of this important area is vital to world peace.

4. We express our interest in the maintenance of peace and the development of conditions of stability and economic and political well-being in the vitally important Continent of Africa. We hope that the countries and peoples of that Continent who are disposed to do so will co-operate within the free world in efforts to promote these purposes. We affirm the readiness of our countries to co-operate for our part with the countries and peoples of Africa to further these ends. Historic, economic and other friendly ties between certain European countries and Africa would make such co-operation particularly desirable and effective.

5. In the course of our review of the international situation we have given consideration to recent serious events in Indonesia. We view them with concern.

The Working of the Alliance

6. The strength of our Alliance, freely concluded between independent nations, lies in our fundamental unity in the face of the danger which threatens us. Thanks to this fundamental unity, we can overcome our difficulties and bring into harmony our individual points of view. In contrast, as events in Hungary have shown, the Soviet bloc is held together only by political and military coercion.

7. Although progress has been made, further improvement is needed in our political consultation. We are resolved to bring this about. Our permanent representatives will be kept fully informed of all government policies which materially affect the Alliance and its members. In this way, we shall be able to draw fully on each other's political experience and to ensure a broad co-ordination of our policies in the interest not only of the Alliance, but of the free world as a whole.

In addition, to strengthen the cohesion of the Alliance, the Permanent Council and the Secretary-General should ensure effective consultation, including, where necessary, procedures of conciliation at an early stage.

Disarmament

8. We recall that in the course of this year, the Western countries taking part in the London disarmament talks put forward to the U.S.S.R., with the unanimous agreement of NATO, a series of concrete proposals providing, subject to effective controls:

For reduction of all armaments and military forces;

For the cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

For the reduction of existing stocks of nuclear weapons;

For the suspension of nuclear weapons tests;

For measures to guard against the risk of surprise attack.

9. We note with regret that these various proposals, which would halt the armaments race and add to world security if they were accepted, were rejected en bloc by the U.S.S.R., although they had been approved by 56 members of the UN.

10. We regret that the U.S.S.R. has brought about a deadlock in the disarmament negotiations by declaring their intention to boycott the UN Disarmament Commission which had been extended, by a strong majority of the General Assembly, to include 25 nations.

11. We denounce Soviet tactics of alternating between peace propaganda statements and attempted intimidation by the threat of nuclear attack.

12. We deplore, also, that the leaders of the U.S.S.R. do not allow the Soviet populations to be impartially informed and enlightened by the services of the UN, at the same time as the populations of other member countries, as to the danger of destruction to which all peoples would be exposed in the event of general war. A resolution to this effect was adopted in November, 1957, by the General Assembly of the UN by 71 nations against 9 nations of the Soviet bloc.

13. We emphasize that, in order to be effective, any disarmament agreement implies adequate international control, that the acceptance of such control is the test of a true desire for peace and that the U.S.S.R. refuses to put this principle into practice.

14. We have decided to establish a technical group to advise on problems of arms control arising out of new technical developments.