

5 in spite of France's decision to withdraw from the integrated defence structure, we regard NATO's collective defence programme as one that must be maintained, particularly at a time when Europe continues to be divided.

10 But I hasten to point out that, while France has removed itself from the integrated force structure, it remains a party to the Treaty. As President de Gaulle has said, France continues to be among its allies, it continues to accept the automatic obligations, both military and otherwise, provided for in the Treaty.

15 So that our first and essential task at Brussels must be to find the means of adapting the collective efforts of all fifteen NATO members, European and North American alike, to the new situation created by the decision of France. But this will not be enough. Already over the last few years the stability of Europe provided for by NATO -- stability and
20 relative peace in the world -- has permitted a gradual but significant improvement in relations between the NATO and the Warsaw Pact powers. This desirable trend -- which I must emphasize is supported by all fifteen NATO members -- must be maintained and indeed intensi-
25 fied. Only through the extension of the present detente, the present improvement in relations between the NATO powers, between East and West, can we bring about a situation in which real and substantial progress toward a settlement in Europe will become possible.