

APPENDIX

COMMUNIQUÉ AND DECLARATION FOLLOWING ROME MEETING OF NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

The North Atlantic Council, meeting in ministerial session in Rome on 26th-27th May, 1970, reaffirmed that the alliance remains indispensable to the security of its members and makes possible their common search for progress towards a more stable relationship between east and west in which outstanding issues dividing Europe can be resolved.

2. Ministers again stated their determination to resolve these problems through a process of negotiation. They recognized that for their part, this search for peace must rest upon a spirit of genuine partnership, the maintenance of the defensive strength of the alliance, and the practice of full and timely consultation.

3. Ministers agreed that it will not be enough to talk of European security in the abstract. The causes of insecurity in Europe are specific, they are deeply rooted in conflicting perceptions of state interests, and their elimination will require patient endeavour. However, the allies, for their part, remain willing to negotiate, in any suitable forum, those concrete issues whose resolution would enhance the security of Europe. The success of efforts to pursue genuine relaxation of tension will be a test of the willingness of all interested countries to deal meaningfully with real issues of security.

4. Ministers affirmed that to endure, peace must rest upon universal respect of the sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of each European state, regardless of its political or social system, and for the right of its peoples to shape their own destinies, free of the threat of external intervention, coercion or constraint.

5. Ministers, recalling their earlier statements on the subject, examined and approved a report on the situation in the Mediterranean, prepared by the Council in Permanent Session which they had requested in their meeting of December 1969. Having regard to the conclusions presented in this report, they found reason to reiterate their concern with regard to the situation in the area. They stressed again the importance of full and frequent consultation among the

allies on this question and the necessity for continued vigilance. They instructed the Council in Permanent Session to continue their close review of the developing situation in the Mediterranean and to report fully thereon to ministers.

6. At their April 1969 meeting in Washington, ministers agreed to explore with the Soviet Union and the other countries of eastern Europe which concrete issues best lend themselves to fruitful negotiations in order to reduce tension and promote co-operation in Europe and to take constructive actions to this end. The council thereafter conducted a detailed study of those issues, and at their meeting in December 1969, ministers declared that allied governments would continue and intensify their contacts, discussions or negotiations through all appropriate channels, bilateral or multilateral, and that they remained receptive to signs of willingness on the part of the Soviet Union and other eastern European countries to engage in such discussions. Progress, they said, in these discussions and negotiations would help to ensure the success of any eventual conference, in which, of course, the North American members of the alliance would participate, to discuss and negotiate substantial problems of co-operation and security in Europe.

7. Ministers expressed satisfaction over the launching or continuation of the whole range of talks and negotiations, initiated by members of the alliance, which they have been actively promoting during the six months since December 1969. At the same time, numerous other east-west contacts have been pursued. The allies have consulted and will continue to consult closely on all these initiatives and contacts.

8. With the support and understanding of its allies, the Federal Republic of Germany has initiated talks with the Soviet Union, Poland and the GDR in order to improve the situation in central Europe. The allies consider this to be encouraging. They express the hope that these talks will yield results and will not be compromised by the presentation of unacceptable demands. The efforts being made to solve outstanding problems and to achieve a *modus vivendi* in Germany which