

NLT (Naval Aide) 119

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1950

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

WESTERN EUROPE

On the basis of discussions with the North Atlantic Council Deputies and a conference with Ambassadors Douglas and Bruce and High Commissioner McCloy on Department proposals, our Deputy on the North Atlantic Council has proposed a course of action for reaching agreement on the question of German participation in western European defense. He believes that the greatest prospect for early agreement appears to lie in separating immediate military arrangements from the discussions of a political superstructure for western Europe as proposed by the French. He feels it might be possible to obtain French agreement immediately to the essentials of US military proposals, including participation of German units up to the regimental-combat-team level, if our proposals: 1) were termed provisional in certain respects; 2) provided that during a "transitional" period strong NAT or tripartite controls would be maintained over the recruitment of German manpower and the procurement of German material; and 3) provided that we would encourage the convening of the interested European powers to negotiate with respect to a western European political superstructure, such negotiations to be held during the transitional period. He suggests that a prior understanding could be reached that the provisional arrangements adopted would continue until superseded by arrangements developed within the framework of an agreed European political structure, if established. If the French should fail to obtain agreement from the other powers to establish these political institutions, the provisional arrangements would either become final or could be modified as necessary.

Our Deputy believes that this course of action should appeal to the Germans since the essential arrangements are frankly provisional and do not involve any acceptance of French leadership, and that it should meet our views since it would permit the essentials of the US plan to be adopted immediately. He points out that while the French reaction to this proposal cannot be accurately judged, our encouragement of negotiations for a European political structure might provide sufficient inducement for the French to accept the proposals. He comments that, although the smaller NAT nations may be reluctant to enter into such negotiations, they should be willing to do so as long as they are

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not being subjected to the pressure of the present military situation to force them into line; furthermore, they should be satisfied with the provisional arrangements since these arrangements would permit the immediate establishment of an integrated defense force.

FAR EAST

Although there is a tendency in the Indian Government itself to discount the accuracy of reports from Pannikar, Indian Ambassador in Peiping, Ambassador Henderson in New Delhi has been handed in strictest confidence an extract from a report from Pannikar to the effect that the Chinese Communist delegation proceeding to the UN has been given wide powers to discuss the entire question of Korea as well as the Formosa issue. Pannikar says that the Chinese Communist authorities are anxious to secure a peaceful settlement of the Korean question but only on the condition that they are a party to the settlement. Pannikar conveyed his impression that the Chinese representatives would be agreeable to settling the Korean question through discussions outside the Security Council, since they hold firmly to the view that the original Council resolution on Korea is invalid because they and the Soviet Union did not participate in the action. Pannikar also understands that the Chinese Communist representatives will be willing to discuss other general issues with the representatives of UN members including the US. The Indian official in making this information available commented that this report was so different from others received from Pannikar that he hoped Communist China was commencing to have more sober thoughts about the possibilities of a third world war.