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NLT (PSP-SUBJ) 92

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STATE DEPT MSG

FROM: USUN NEW YORK NY SGD ACHESON

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE WASH DC

NR: SECTO 20 170230Z 16 SEP 50

Army pass Dept Defense.

Dept pass Brussels, Luxembourg, Ottawa, Copenhagen, Paris (pass CSR), Rome, Hague, Oslo, Lisbon, London, Heidelberg for Handy, sent Dept SECTO 20, rptd Brussels, Luxembourg, Ottawa, Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Hague, Oslo, Lisbon, Heidelberg as unnumbered.

For President and Acting Secretary.

Summary Third Mtg North Atlantic Council Fifth Session Sept 16 10:30 AM.

1. Continued discussion item four of agenda.

2. Schuman opened with strong statement regarding participation Ger manpower in defense of West Eur making usual points. Stated we are asking for conscription Germans, not volunteers. Latter might be more acceptable. Cited Ger CDU Party statement participation Ger divisions premature. Does not believe Ger public opinion prepared accept. Also raised legal ques whether Ger units can participate without adhering to NAT, which wld require action by twelve parliaments. Stressed psychological obstacles. An announced decision here on principle wld be to present peoples with fait accompli, and might be counterproductive to desired result. Suggest EE refugees might be among first to appear in Ger units and pointed out effect on EE peoples of USSR propoganda playing up theme that EE refugees will be the first line Army of west. Agreed with Secys statement yesterday that strengthening defense itself involves risk provocation. However that risk must be accepted. This additional risk need not be.

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By NLT:NL NARS, Date 11-27-79

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Warned that mil spirit cld reawaken in Ger as after first war. Stated armed Ger wld be more difficult to deal with on peace treaty. Germans more difficult deal with already since proposal became known, and they feel they can demand concessions. Discounted danger developing Ger neutralism. Germans admire strength in anyone and their attitude will be function our strength. Problem is evolutionary and must be taken in series of steps. Warned against going too fast.

Stated Fr Govt not irrevocably opposed to Ger participation. However, must be strong Nat Army before Ger units can be integrated and must be sufficient supplies in equip pool for that Army before giving to Gers. Warned that Germans, if units formed in two yrs and medium term defense plan equip not provided for three years, wld insist upon recreating own munitions industry. Wants wait till our strength at acceptable minimum, altho not necessarily for completion full program. Asked why take spectacular decision now, involving grave danger in Ger and Russia. Referred to secys statement yesterday and doubted wld take 18 mos or 2 yrs to form and train Ger units. Cited police citizen lists, spirit of discipline and mass unemployed offer class.

Closed by stating did not want end on negative tone. Ger shld contribute to defense Eur including Ger, but it can contributed by increase in police, providing steel and materials, strengthening labor units, and building fortified defense line in Ger. Requested we study problem and stated not opposed to talks with Germans. Does oppose immediate decision. Unavoidable publicity wld be extremely dangerous. Probable that Ger will some day join defense force. This shld be when sure Ger contribution will enhance not endanger security. Cant be certain of that at this time.

3. Sfroze (Ital) was emotionally moved by Schumans eloquence and wished cld agree. Maybe cld agree if not faced by greatest danger ever in Eur and under threat universal destruction. Must forget past and face situation as it presents itself. Reaffirmed position taken yesterday.

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4. Stikker (Neth) believed Council had elements necessary reach certain decisions now. Pointed out Ger occupation as severe in Neth as in Fr and Belg. However if US proposal put before Dutch parl 80 percent wld favor. A govt crisis is imminent in Neth partly because conviction Eur defense not sufficient and continent cannot alone defend itself. WU and Nat concepts right but defense only on paper. Have only two alternatives-US, UK, and Can troops in Eur, or use Germans.

5. Van Zeeland (Belg) questioned whether differences so important. Have agreed on purposes. Agreed in principle Ger must be used in one way or another. Must see now what positive steps we can take. Agreed on Ger economic measures. Police can help mil. Must now decide where lies our interest, what will be effect on total strength, and what practical studies to be made. Stated Acheson yesterday answered Fr fear of attempting equip Ger until mil production ample and Ger units integrated into total force already in being. These points show gaps narrow and positive results have been accomplished. Have full agreement on magnitude of danger and maximum effort required. US yesterday made positive suggestions constituting "Revolutionary change" in US policy. Must view problem in this new light. Shld try state remaining issues more precisely.

6. Acheson summed up discussion. Are talking about whether or not, and how, add Ger strength to our own. We are all in together, fully sharing commitments. Must now work out sense of direction. Do we want to accomplish objective, reject, or not think about it? Asked no fight problem, but solve it. Stated can be solved. Pointed out he didn't say yesterday US proposal only way to solve. If there are other ways they shld be considered. However it not constructive simply to criticize US proposal without making constructive suggestions.

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Pointed out had stated difficulties yesterday. Repeated we agree integrated NAT Force comes first but it is only part of problem to which Gers contribution to west defense is linked. Russia has force in East Ger to which it is adding strength. Gap is colossal between east and west forces. Not asking immediate specific decision but only that we all now agree on course. Hopes it will be possible do this.

Secy pointed out all in agreement Ger must participate and some time council must take this step. We shld reach agreement soon so strength in west cld be increased by adding Ger strength in way that aided overall strength. Stated had no desire for spectacular action and wished reach conclusion not embarrassing to anyone. But cannot get anywhere if matter not faced up to. We will get in trouble if we do nothing, and while there will be difficulties if we decide to go ahead, important thing now is to get sense direction. If NAT agrees on that, progress can be made.

7. Bevin (UK) stated cld neither add to nor subtract from yesterdays statement. Agreed shld reach conclusion on sense direction. Need decision so planners can get on with work. Stated situation becoming very dangerous and we must decide on the course we will follow.

8. Mtg recessed at 12:55 until 3 PM at which time discussion item four to be continued.

ACTION: G3

INFO : CSA, G2, JCS, OSA, OCA, OAGO, OMA, SEC DEF, SDLO, AF,
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