



ORGANISATION DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

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To: Permanent Representatives

From: Secretary General

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON 17TH SEPTEMBER

WORK OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

As you are aware, the Council will hold a special meeting on 17th September to discuss the next session of the United Nations General Assembly. The morning session, which will be attended by the representatives of the four Western Powers in Geneva, General Burns, Mr. Cavalletti, Lord Chalfont and Mr. Foster, will be given over to disarmament. Other items on the Agenda of the 20th Ordinary Session which are of special interest to the Alliance will be discussed at the afternoon session.

2. The attached paper listing the items in question has been prepared by the Political Division. It is, of course, in no way restrictive and any question likely to be brought up at New York and which is of interest to the Alliance may be discussed at the request of delegations.

(Signed) Manlio BROSIO

NATO CONFIDENTIAL

AGENDA OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It will be recalled that the 19th Assembly of the United Nations, which was scheduled to open in New York on 10th November, 1964, did not go according to plan owing to a dispute arising from the interpretation of Article 19 of the Charter. As a result, none of the points on the Agenda were considered. This fact serves to underline the importance of the discussions to be held this autumn dealing with all the major issues of world politics.

Of the 98 items which are already on the provisional Agenda for the 20th Assembly of the United Nations due to open in New York on 21st September, 12 or so are of direct interest to the Alliance.

These questions are the following:

1. Cyprus

The debate on the Cyprus issue, which the Government of Mgr. Makarios has requested be placed on the Agenda (Item 95), will provide the Communist powers with an opportunity to denounce the presence of foreign bases on the island and, more generally, the policy of the Western Powers in the Mediterranean area.

The Turkish Government, for its part, has raised the question of "the grave situation created in Cyprus by the policies pursued against the Turkish community" (Item 97).

However, the competence of the General Assembly will be limited, first by the provision of paragraph 1 of Article 12 and, secondly, by those of paragraph 2 of Article 11 of the United Nations Charter.

2. Disarmament

The items on the General Assembly Agenda dealing with general and complete disarmament (Item 28); the question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons (Item 29); the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests (Item 30) and the possible convening of a world disarmament conference (Item 98), will probably lead the USSR to adopt the same positions as those she defended in Geneva this summer (Multilateral Force).

It is also highly likely that the discussion on disarmament will lead to consideration of the German question. The question of the convening of a world disarmament conference, in particular, may well lead to discussion of participation by certain territories (the Soviet Zone of Germany for instance) thereby raising difficult problems.

3. The peaceful settlement of disputes

The Soviet Government has withdrawn from the Agenda, doubtless as a friendly gesture towards China, the draft agreement renouncing the use of force in settling territorial disputes which Mr. Khrushchev sent to all governments throughout the world on 1st January, 1963 (cf. PO/64/21). However, the United Kingdom Government has requested a full examination of the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes. It hopes that the United Nations will consider the political as well as the legal aspect of the problem.

4. Nuclear-free zones

Item 33 of the Agenda which refers to "actions on the regional level with a view to improving good neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems" concerns the Rumanian proposal which aims principally at the establishment of nuclear-free zones.

Since the doctrine of the Atlantic powers is firmly established in this connection, discussion of this point should raise no special difficulties.

5. China

The question of Chinese representation at the United Nations has been raised at the request of Albania and nine other countries (Cambodia, Ghana, Algeria, Burundi, Cuba, Rumania, Guinea, Mali and Congo-Brazzaville) who demand the restoration to China of her legitimate rights.

This initiative more likely reflects the policy of the ten governments in question rather than the wishes of Peking, since the latter has neither encouraged nor discouraged the raising of this question.

In practice, this will entail two problems:

1. Category: According to whether the motion is considered "important" or "ordinary" the majority required will be either two thirds or a simple majority.
2. Wording: The number of votes cast in favour of the motion will depend on whether or not it raises the problem of the representation of Formosa, for instance.

6. Colonial questions

The Special Committee of 24 will have before it the reports of the working groups which were set up in connection with the implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (Item 23).

These discussions will affect the Alliance for several of the territories concerned are linked with member countries. This is the case with Aden, Rhodesia etc., and the Portuguese Overseas Provinces in particular.

7. Vietnam

Although the question of Vietnam is not on the provisional Agenda of the forthcoming session, it is almost certain to be discussed.

Two countries, Yugoslavia and India, will probably take the initiative in bringing it up.

Mr. Wilson has in any case already announced his intention of raising the question of Vietnam in the speech he is to deliver to the General Assembly.

8. Korea

The study of the report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of this country (Item 32) will also provide the Eastern bloc with an opportunity to criticise members of the Alliance.

9. Palestine

The report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will give the Arab States an opportunity to denounce the policy being pursued by the Israeli Government of diverting the waters of the Jordan.

This problem has certain implications for East/West relations in view of the systematically pro-Arab position of the Soviet Authorities and the support given to Israel by certain members of the Alliance.

10. Financing of the United Nations

The Group of 21 on the examination of methods for resolving the Organization's financial crisis is now dormant.

However, the 20th Assembly will have before it the report of the Committee of 33 which was instructed to prepare an overall study on all aspects of peace-keeping operations including the financial aspect.

11. Election of the President (Item 4)

By virtue of the principle of rotation the Presidency should be held this year by a European country and more specifically by an East European country. It appears likely that a compromise will be reached in New York through the election of a Finnish candidate.

12. Elections to the Security Council (Item 16) and to the Economic and Social Council (Item 17)

The terms of office of three countries, namely, the Ivory Coast, Malaysia and Bolivia have expired. Furthermore, six new members must be elected, since from 1st January, 1966 this Council will comprise 15 members.

The seats to be filled are as follows:

- 3 for the Afro-Asian countries (there are 5 candidates)
- 1 for Eastern Europe (Bulgaria)
- 1 for Latin America (the Argentine)
- 1 for Western Europe and the white countries of the Commonwealth (New Zealand)

The outgoing members of the Economic and Social Council are: Japan, Czechoslovakia, the Argentine, Austria, the United Kingdom and the USSR.

In addition, 9 new members must be elected, since membership of this Council is to be increased from 18 to 27.