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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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of the

MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

held on

FRIDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 1978, at 10.15 a.m.

at

NATO HEADQUARTERS

BRUSSELS

COMPTE RENDU

de la

SEANCE DU CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

tenue le

VENDREDI 8 DECEMBRE 1978 à 10h15

au

SIEGE DE L'OTAN

BRUXELLES

OTAN/NATO,  
1110 Brussels.

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N A T O   S E C R E T

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M. LUNS

Nous avons eu hier, pour la première fois, je pense une réunion vraiment structurée, une réunion restreinte où tous les points dont nous avons parlé avec les ambassadeurs ont été soulevés et où nous avons débattu de questions très importantes. A mon avis, notre discussion a confirmé, premièrement, l'importance vitale d'aboutir à des résultats concrets dans les conversations en cours sur le contrôle des armements et sur les efforts de désarmement, surtout dans le contexte des MBFR et des SALT; deuxièmement, la grande valeur d'une politique des droits de l'homme crédible, objective mais aussi prudente, comme élément essentiel de notre politique de détente. Dans ce contexte, il importe de poursuivre le processus de la CSCE et de préparer avec beaucoup de soin la Conférence qui se tiendra en 1980 et qui examinera les résultats, acquis ou non, à Madrid. Dans mon résumé, je ne peux qu'évoquer brièvement les questions importantes qui ont été abordées et je vous prie de bien vouloir me pardonner si, par souci de concision, je ne peux me référer à toutes les observations pertinentes et intéressantes que les Ministres ont faites hier.

Now let me say a word about détente and human rights.

After the distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece made a statement in which he touched, in a rather detailed way, on the human rights issue, we started a lengthy discussion of human rights which was as worthwhile as it was unexpected.

There was universal agreement on the necessity to maintain a credible and prudent policy on human rights. This was seen as the primary Western challenge to Communism and as our response to Soviet attempts to confine détente to inter-governmental relations.

Détente and human rights are inexplicably linked and there can be no question of having to choose between them.

Governments and private institutions have complementary rôles to play in promoting human rights; to be credible human rights policy must be non-selective, and it should not be used as a weapon or crusade directed either against countries we don't like in the Third World, like let us say Chile, and some others, or to the Communist world only.

Within the context of détente there was a discussion on the CSCE process. With a number of Ministers stressing the need for most careful preparation of the 1980 Madrid Review Conference.

Mr. LUNS (Contd)

Herr Genscher, the German Foreign Secretary, proposed that the Madrid meeting might be raised to the level of Heads of Government or Foreign Ministers. Madrid should review implementation of the Helsinki Final Act but serve also to give new impetus to the CSCE process.

The distinguished Foreign Minister of Denmark suggested in the context of preparation for Madrid that in addition to inter-Alliance consultation we should enter into discussions with the Eastern as well as with neutral and non-alligned States about their intentions.

Now MBFR. Assessing the Eastern counter-proposal your Danish and Dutch colleagues described them as moving toward the Russian position even though they still contain serious defects. As Foreign Minister Genscher emphasized parity and collectivity remain vital principles of the Western position. There was general agreement on the importance of resolving the data discrepancy as a prerequisite for further progress in MBFR.

With regard to the British suggestion to hold MBFR talks at the level of Foreign Ministers, Dr. Owen urged that it should be proposed in the rather near future.

Others suggested that an imminent or actual solution of the data problem would be necessary before we could go to such a Ministerial meeting, because a Ministerial meeting which was not a success would be worse than no Ministerial meeting; that is what other Ministers found, and the solution of the data problem could provide the appropriate moment for such a step.

Several Ministers emphasized the importance of regaining and maintaining the Western initiative by giving a rapid response to the Eastern proposals.

Minister Simonet and others pointed to growing difficulties vis-à-vis public opinion.

The Foreign Ministers of Turkey and of Norway stressed the importance of associated measures as having a direct bearing on the security interests of the flank countries.

As regards the French proposal for a European Disarmament Conference, Mr. Genscher said that his Government sees it as complementing in significant ways the MBFR talks and supports both.

M. LUNS (Contd)

Your Belgian and British colleagues on the other hand warn, that a shift to another form would create confusion and might have an adverse effect on public opinion. According to Dr. Owen reductions should be obtained in the Central Region before moving into a wider forum. Rapid progress in MBFR is a priority concern as Dr. Owen put it, of Her Majesty's Government.

En ce qui concerne les SALT, le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la République fédérale d'Allemagne et certains de ses collègues ont salué les SALT II, ou plutôt la perspective d'un accord SALT II, et souligné l'importance des consultations au sein de l'Alliance sur ce que l'on appelle les zones grises des systèmes d'armes. M. Christopher, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, a fait un rapport d'où il ressort que les conversations sont en bonne voie, et qu'il subsiste quelques difficultés qui, selon son gouvernement, pourraient être surmontées dans un avenir proche. Il a dit que, à son avis, l'accord a déjà été réalisé à 95 %. Il a décrit les difficultés qui restent à résoudre et a souligné que les Etats-Unis d'Amérique ne travaillent pas contre la montre. Et les Etats-Unis continueront de s'efforcer d'obtenir de la part de l'Union soviétique des assurances satisfaisantes pour qu'un accord, qui soit de nature à promouvoir la sécurité de l'Alliance dans son ensemble, puisse être atteint.

Finalement, le Secrétaire d'Etat délégué des Etats-Unis a informé ses collègues qu'il est dans l'intention de son gouvernement de continuer une consultation très poussée avec ses Alliés sur la progression des pourparlers.

We noted that China appears determined to emerge from her isolation and wants Western support. While the German Foreign Minister welcomed this progress, the entry of China into global politics, the Minister François-Poncet warned us to develop a careful and measured policy towards China, since her aspirations are not necessarily compatible with détente and with our Western interest. Commenting on the increasingly independent policy of Romania, the Hellenic Foreign Minister observed that this comes in part from contact with China and the need of President Ceausescu to restore his prestige with the help of Peking but also of Bulgaria.

According to Minister Rallis, the Soviet Union is concerned mainly that other Warsaw Pact members might be encouraged by the Romanian example.

Mr. LUNS (Contd)

On Africa, assessment differed somewhat. The Foreign Minister of Canada provided a most interesting assessment on the situation and gave an eye-witness report on South Africa and Namibia; and he drew particular attention to the immense danger and lack of stability inherent in the South African situation.

Dr. Owen agreed that Rhodesia and Namibia remained the most critical problem for the West in Africa, but he, as well as the Foreign Minister of France, thought that the Soviet position might be weakening generally on the African Continent.

The Foreign Minister of Canada gave a very noteworthy analysis of the dangers and the possibilities of applying sanctions to South Africa, and warned against a situation where it might be seen that what we say is not being acted upon in the way it should be acted upon. It was also pointed out, I think by Mr. Jamieson, that sanctions which are circumvented by several African states are a danger too.

Dr. Owen, as well as the Foreign Minister of France, thought that the Soviet position might be weakening generally, as I said a moment ago. I read it twice, because I think it is so interesting.

Mr. Genscher pointed out that relations between the West and the developing countries will not necessarily change for the worse. Third World countries are coming to recognise that our policy towards them is more progressive and egalitarian than that of the Soviet Union and its allies. He pointed to the progress made with regard to Angola and Zaire. The distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Signor Forlani, warned however that the Soviet Union seems to be achieving its objectives in the Horn of Africa. The distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway pointed out that in Southern Africa time is working against us. The West must maintain its initiative. Ministers Frydenlund and Jamieson emphasized that the front-line states hold the key to stability in that region and are in urgent need of Western encouragement and support.

D'autres sujets qui ont été discutés sont la situation en Islande et sur le flanc nord. M. Frydenlund a expliqué et a mis en perspective certains incidents survenus récemment dans les eaux territoriales de la Norvège et à proximité du Spitzberg.

M. LUNS (Suite)

Il a rappelé à ses collègues que les Soviétiques déploient une activité croissante dans la région Nord et il a dit que les relations entre la Norvège et l'Union soviétique sont, dans l'ensemble, satisfaisantes, mais il n'a pas exclu la possibilité de nouveaux incidents. La situation demande beaucoup de prudence pour qu'un conflit sérieux soit évité, mais il faut aussi que les frontières et les juridictions soient bien établies. Son collègue du Danemark l'a appuyé et a évoqué en outre les préoccupations que cause à son pays la situation militaire dans la mer Baltique. Il a expliqué qu'à plusieurs reprises, son gouvernement avait fait des représentations à Moscou, sans résultats apparents. Le Ministre des affaires étrangères de l'Islande, M. Gröndal, a souligné que le changement de gouvernement dans son pays n'implique aucune modification dans le statut des forces américaines de défense, non plus que dans les relations de l'Islande avec l'OTAN, et il a ajouté des paroles extrêmement chaleureuses à l'égard de l'Alliance qui ont été remarquées par ses collègues. Le Ministre des affaires étrangères du Portugal, M. de Freitas-Cruz, a exprimé la gratitude de son pays pour l'assistance militaire qui lui a été fournie et qui est de nature à lui permettre d'apporter une contribution plus efficace à l'Alliance. Finalement, Messieurs, et ce seront là mes dernières paroles, notre discussion d'hier a été extrêmement utile et nous a permis de considérer longuement et objectivement notre attitude et nos politiques vis-à-vis des pays de l'Est et du monde qui nous entoure. Merci, Messieurs. Oui, M. l'Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni.

Sir John KILLICK

Mr. Secretary General, a small point of clarification may perhaps be helpful. In relation to Dr. Owen's proposal, you used the phrase "the rather near future" and I think possibly some confusion may have arisen, because I think in the Restricted Session he talked of this happening in the thirtieth year of the Alliance. Well, strictly speaking, arithmetically, we are already in the thirtieth year of the Alliance and have been since last April; what he really meant was the thirty-first year of the Alliance. But it isn't such a good phrase, politically.

Mr. LUNS

Thank you for the clarification.

III. STUDY ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE WITHIN  
THE ALLIANCE

Mr. LUNS

Now gentlemen, we now go to the very important Point III of our Agenda. Economic Co-operation and Assistance within the Alliance.

As you are all aware, I was invited, at the Summit Conference in Washington, to prepare for your perusal a report on Economic Co-operation and Assistance within the Alliance and I have laid before you such a report and with certain suggestions.

The report examines the problems of those countries whose economies are hardest hit. Now gentlemen, the message is very clear: the present efforts concerning economic assistance by countries of the Alliance are meagre and inadequate; indeed, without a better response to their needs these nations face a grave danger of further deterioration in their economic situations that could well undermine their social and political structure and also their capacity to continue to provide adequate defence to the Alliance as a whole.

I need hardly underline the implications the developments could have for the Alliance in areas of really crucial geo-political importance.

It is with these considerations in mind that I put this interim report before you. Although it has been sent to members of the Council in Permanent Session, and although there has been an exchange of views, no agreement or endorsement in this context was asked by me for it or given on that occasion. I stress that this document is a personal one and engages only myself, but the matter with which it deals is of considerable importance and considerable urgency. I now ask your views on the question of further action by Allied members that would be both appropriate and timely. In this context I take pleasure in giving the floor to the distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal. M. de Freitas-Cruz, vous avez la parole.

M. de FREITAS-CRUZ

Merci, M. le Président. Lors de la réunion de Washington, les gouvernements des pays de l'Alliance ont reconnu formellement, et au plus haut niveau, que leurs efforts de défense perdraient beaucoup de leur signification et de leur efficacité s'ils ne s'appuyaient pas sur des bases saines et capables d'assurer la poursuite de l'amélioration de la situation économique et sociale de leurs peuples.

M. de FREITAS-CRUZ (Suite)

L'esprit de l'article 2 du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord, si bien exprimé dans le paragraphe 11 du Communiqué final de Washington, correspond à la reconnaissance d'une donnée fondamentale de cette Alliance : la complémentarité entre l'effort de défense, face à la menace extérieure, et le maintien de niveaux de vie satisfaisants des peuples qui la composent.

Il a également été reconnu, de façon bien claire et sans ambiguïté, le principe de la solidarité entre les pays de l'Alliance atlantique dans l'appui aux programmes de développement de ses membres les moins favorisés. Je n'ai pas à souligner l'importance que revêt, pour mon pays, la réaffirmation de ces principes.

Les graves difficultés économiques qui affectent quelques-uns des partenaires de cette Alliance, et leurs répercussions sur leur situation politique interne, ne sauraient laisser indifférents ceux d'entre eux qui bénéficient d'une situation plus aisée. Nous avons à ce sujet suffisamment de preuves, et il ne sera pas déplacé de répéter ici combien nous sommes reconnaissants à nos Alliés, et de l'appui matériel et de l'assistance qu'ils nous ont déjà accordés, dont mon pays attend avec confiance la poursuite et l'accroissement.

Nous reconnaissons certes que l'OTAN ne sera pas le "forum" le plus adéquat pour la matérialisation de cette assistance, qui a été jusqu'à présent, et pourra continuer d'être concrétisée, soit par la voie bilatérale, soit par la voie d'organismes spécialisés. Mais nous ne pouvons et ne devons pas ignorer que ce problème ne peut pas être envisagé d'un point de vue exclusivement économique. Ainsi, étant donné son caractère éminemment politique, il trouve dans la solidarité entre les membres de cette Alliance son cadre naturel de réflexion et de décision. C'est pour cette raison que la réaffirmation de ces principes dans ce Conseil me paraît opportune. Je souhaite que le Communiqué final que nous examinerons bientôt en fasse état. L'opinion publique de mon pays s'y attend.

Je voudrais également rappeler que, pour nous, l'accent mis sur l'aide et la coopération économiques au sein de l'Alliance n'est en aucune façon incompatible avec l'aide que tant d'entre nous accordons aux pays du Tiers monde. Le Portugal, qui d'ailleurs dans cette enceinte a déjà défendu cette aide, continue, malgré ses difficultés actuelles, d'assumer courageusement d'importantes charges matérielles et humaines au bénéfice d'autres pays encore moins favorisés.



M. de FREITAS-CRUZ (Suite)

M. le Secrétaire général, nous savons combien le principe de la pleine solidarité entre Alliés vous est cher, et nous vous sommes très reconnaissants de tout l'intérêt que vous avez, personnellement, porté à la question de l'aide et de la coopération économiques au sein de l'Alliance. Nombreuses ont été vos déclarations à ce sujet; les dernières, la semaine passée à Lisbonne, ont beaucoup sensibilisé, et le gouvernement, et l'opinion publique de mon pays.

L'étude que nous avons devant nous, document PO/78/116, ses annexes et addenda, reflète bien le travail que, sur vos instructions, le Secrétariat a développé dans le cadre du mandat qui vous a été confié à Washington. Nous sommes certains que son appréciation par le Conseil lui donnera une nouvelle impulsion, laquelle comptera toujours - nous le savons - avec votre contribution éclairée.

La gravité de l'actuelle situation économique portugaise, notre fidélité réitérée à l'Alliance atlantique et l'option européenne que j'ai déjà mentionnée, nous amènent à regarder nos Alliés autour de cette table comme ceux de qui nous pourrions attendre l'appui et la solidarité dont nous avons besoin.

Merci, M. le Président.

M. LUNS

Merci beaucoup M. le Ministre. Je donne maintenant la parole à M. le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Turquie.

Mr. ÖKÇÜN

Mr. Chairman, my dear colleagues. Upon the decision taken at the Washington Summit Meeting on 30th and 31st May, Secretary General Luns initiated an exercise for studying economic assistance and co-operation within the Alliance for the current economic difficulties of certain countries. As a result of this exercise, a report cogently describing the economic crisis Turkey is going through is now before us for action.

I would like to thank the Secretary General and his staff for their outstanding effort since the report which deals graphically with Turkey's economic problems has been prepared in a substantive way within a relatively short time. I do hope that member countries have examined the evaluations as well as the recommendations contained in the report and that it will be possible during this Ministerial Council to take a decision reflecting the political will of all member countries to assist those less developed members who are in need of urgent aid.

Mr. ÖKÇÜN (Contd)

I am sure that the Ministers present here have a full knowledge of the gravity of Turkey's economic situation. In addition to the Secretary General's report, they most probably have full knowledge of it through the OECD reports, other international organizations and through bilateral channels, so I do not intend to take your time by making a detailed exposé on this situation.

I will confine myself only to saying that the present Turkish Government took office about eleven months ago when the economy was at the peak of a serious crisis, and as soon as it assumed power it started a most determined struggle to overcome the economic difficulties and to achieve economic and social development in democracy. It elaborated a stabilization programme which envisaged most courageous, rigorous and, I should say, unpopular measures for a government in a democratic country in order to redress the economy.

During the period which has elapsed since the initiation of the stabilization package, the Turkish Government has spent the bulk of its energies on its proper implementation. The performance under the stabilization programme could be qualified as fairly good, but since the start of this programme, we have been put, and still are, in a vicious circle. New credits, which are essential for the success of such a stabilization programme in the economic setting of a developing country like Turkey, with very limited exceptions have not been introduced into the Turkish economy in order to make it work and I wish to stress with urgency that this programme is in need of being supported by adequate fresh credits.

If the expected assistance is not extended both as to its timeliness and to its level our industrial production, operating at present at only 45% of its capacity, shall threateningly fall further and come to a standstill. Our export promotion efforts shall be jeopardized, inflationary trends shall become unmanageable, and unemployment shall increase to an unmanageable level, and this with the most undesirable social and political consequences.

On this occasion, I would like to say that the Turkish nation is committed to live as a pluralistic society and to maintain the system of government based on democracy and human rights. It has been striving for three decades to firmly establish a truly working democratic system despite some very severe trials and serious economic and social problems.

Mr. ÖKÇÜN (Contd)

It is this tenacious attachment to a democratic way of life that makes Turkey more than anything else a Western country since we believe that democracy is a culture and, consequently, has her place in the Atlantic Alliance fundamentally based on the preservation of democratic and individual freedoms and rights.

In our days, even industrially advanced Western countries are faced with new challenges for maintaining their level of prosperity and safeguarding democratic ideals. The situation is more acute for those democratic countries which are economically less favoured and where economic development lags well behind political and social development. We are suffering from a rampant inflation which reached the level of 50%, with a stagnant industry threatening to come to a standstill and an overt or hidden unemployment attaining the level of 20%.

The Turkish Government is fully aware that it is fundamentally its own responsibility to overcome these difficulties and to redress the Turkish economy. It is a difficult task, Mr. Chairman, to achieve economic development in a developing country. It is more difficult to achieve economic development in democracy with due respect to human rights.

The most difficult task, however, is to achieve economic development in democracy with due respect to human rights, when a government inherits a considerable outstanding external debt from previous governments. No matter how adverse the conditions may be, the Turkish Government and the Turkish nation are determined to achieve economic development in democracy. This is why we wish that our situation be regarded as posing a challenge to the Western community in the spirit of Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty. In this context, I also wish to underline the well-known dictum that a sound defence is based on a sound economy and its corollary that, particularly in the case of a developing country like Turkey, defence matters cannot be disassociated from economy. I believe I need not stress the impact of the present situation on our defence efforts. In fact, we possess neither the means nor the justification before our public opinion for any additional defence spending, although such an outlay may be considered as necessary from the military point of view.

From our previous discussions on some other items of the Agenda, I gathered the impression that the necessity of an increased vigilance of the Alliance has been generally acknowledged.

Mr. ÖKÇÜN (Contd)

In this context, I would say that the political environment surrounding Turkey and recent regional developments necessitate a concrete display of firmer solidarity for the sake of common interest. While urging you to give more serious consideration to the problems of the less developed member countries of NATO and the recommendations put forward in the Secretary General's Report, I would like to point out that Turkey, in addition to her critical rôle in NATO, provides a model which demonstrates that democracy and development do not exclude each other, and in fact can go hand in hand. Before I conclude, I would like to stress that there is a political will in the Turkish Government to cooperate with Western countries. Time has come to see, and I must add that Turkish public opinion is very keen on this, whether there is a similar political will in the Western community to reciprocate ours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

M. LUNS

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Ministre. A qui puis-je donner la parole? Je donne la parole au distingué Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Grèce, Monsieur Rallis.

Mr. RALLIS

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take the opportunity of this discussion to say that we too are facing certain difficulties because of our increased defence expenditure. Last year, our defence expenditure, which was very much increased, resulted in an inflation rate of 12.8%; this year and in fact on the eve of municipal elections, we were forced to increase for one year direct taxation by 10% and to take measures for the restriction of tax evasion. Thanks to these measures this year our inflation will be below 12%, that is we will have managed a reduction of 1%. Next week, the Prime Minister will announce new unpopular economic measures so as to be able to further control inflation, because as you very well know, unfortunately, our defence expenditure for 1979 will amount approximately to 22/23% of the public budget, which is an enormous sum for us as you well understand. Fortunately for us, we do not face the same problems as Portugal and Turkey. However, I do want you to understand that for us too, defence expenditure is a problem, and this is why we do agree with the intention expressed by all in the Communiqué, an intention which confirmed the assessment which was made during the Washington meeting.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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M. LUNS

Il y a, dans le rapport que j'ai soumis au Conseil, certaines recommandations surtout centrées sur des mesures que l'Alliance peut prendre, parce qu'il va de soi que, comme l'a dit aussi le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Turquie, l'appui économique et financier à donner à la Turquie ne peut pas être octroyé directement par l'Alliance comme telle. Mais les pays de l'Alliance, dans les organismes qui sont faits pour cela, doivent adopter une attitude sympathique et prendre des mesures concrètes : c'est ça le but de notre réunion.

En plus, la délégation turque a fait distribuer un projet de résolution qui devrait faire l'objet de vos délibérations. Il est clair que le communiqué donne un écho favorable et c'est une bonne chose, mais il me semble que le Conseil doit entrer un peu plus dans la matière et ne pas se borner à approuver quelques lignes d'un communiqué.

M. le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Belgique, M. Simonet.

M. SIMONET

Monsieur le Président, comme il n'appartient pas, en effet, à l'Alliance, parce qu'elle n'en a pas les moyens en tant que telle, d'organiser au plan multilatéral un mécanisme d'aide économique, quel qu'il soit, je suppose et je comprends, d'ailleurs, la préoccupation que vous exprimez par là, que lorsque vous nous invitez à entrer en peu plus dans la matière, cela signifie que nous ne nous bornions pas à enregistrer passivement, chacun pour soi, et votre rapport et les deux ou trois interventions que nous venons d'entendre mais, en particulier, celle du Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Turquie et du Ministre des affaires étrangères du Portugal, puisqu'aussi bien le premier d'entre eux nous a fait parvenir un mémorandum, et que nous ne limitons pas notre participation à l'approbation des quelques lignes qui figurent dans le communiqué. Je présume que vous souhaitez que l'on dise quelque chose de plus, que l'on aille au-delà d'une formulation générale et relativement vague et que, faute de pouvoir mettre en place un dispositif d'aide organisé par l'Alliance en tant que telle, les pays s'expriment. C'est dans cette perspective que je voudrais vous dire, au nom de la Belgique, qu'étant donné les rapports que nous avons depuis longtemps, non seulement avec la Turquie - car nous avons eu en particulier de nombreux contacts avec ce pays - mais aussi avec le Portugal, soit au plan bilatéral, soit à l'occasion de conversations dans un cadre plus large, nous avons pu apprécier les difficultés sérieuses que rencontrent ces pays, et dès lors, mesurer l'effort considérable que font leurs gouvernements respectifs.

M. SIMONET (Suite)

Et nous sommes conscients de l'importance, pour eux, bien sûr, mais aussi pour nous, qui faisons partie avec eux de notre système d'alliance, qu'aurait l'échec des efforts qu'ils poursuivent à l'heure actuelle avec beaucoup de courage et de résolution et, dès lors, de l'importance et du prix que nous devons attacher à la réussite de ces efforts. Nous sommes aussi parfaitement convaincus que, réduits à leurs seules forces, ces deux pays ne surmonteraient pas leurs difficultés et qu'il importe donc pour chacun des pays de l'Alliance d'essayer, dans la limite de ses possibilités, de leur fournir, soit à l'intérieur d'un système plurinational, soit bilatéralement, l'aide qui pourrait les aider, fût-ce modestement, dans l'entreprise très difficile dans laquelle ils sont engagés. Et je puis vous dire que c'est dans cet esprit que le gouvernement belge compte agir dans les rapports qu'il a avec ces deux pays et dans la perspective que je viens d'évoquer, c'est-à-dire du caractère vital, non seulement pour eux, mais aussi pour nous, de la réussite de leur entreprise.

M. LUNS

Merci beaucoup, M. le Ministre, de votre réaction positive. Si je participe un peu plus activement à ce débat, ce n'est pas que le Président de ce Conseil doit prendre des positions marquées sur tous les sujets que nous discutons, mais c'est plutôt en ma qualité d'auteur des rapports et dans l'optique de la tâche qui m'a été confiée par les premiers ministres et les présidents du Conseil. J'aurai l'occasion de formuler de temps à autre quelques observations qui s'inscrivent dans cette perspective.

M. le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Norvège.

Mr. FRYDENLUND

Mr. Chairman, the Norwegian Government agreed that the solidarity which we have established among ourselves should also extend to economic hardship cases of the magnitude which some of our member countries are faced with today and that is what the report is about.

We therefore welcome your interim report, Mr. Secretary General, on economic co-operation and assistance within the Alliance and are also in general agreement with the tentative proposals made in the document before us, without committing ourselves to the implementation of every one of them. All of them are, however, now being studied closely by the Norwegian Authorities and we agree that what can be done should preferably be done on a bilateral basis or through the competent economic organizations.

Mr. FRYDENLUND (Contd)

In recent years, Norway has established organized economic co-operation both with Portugal and with Turkey and bilateral machinery has been established. We have economic commissions and frequent contacts on both political and administrative level which have offered opportunities for following this up.

We think that the Secretary General's interim report has been most valuable in starting a process which we hope will result in a consensus among us as to the strong and urgent need for increasing our assistance to the countries in question. Further, we think that it is appropriate that our solidarity in this field, and our determination to provide assistance and co-operation, should be duly reflected in our Communiqué.

We also agree that we should continue our consultations on this important and rather urgent subject.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LUNS

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

I now recognise the distinguished Deputy Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Christopher.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER

Mr. Chairman, colleagues, I want to make a brief but positive intervention on this point. We all recognise that NATO is primarily a mutual security Alliance whose members benefit from a shared joint defence effort. At the same time, as the Secretary General and other speakers have pointed out, the strength of each member state depends to a very significant degree on the health and strength of its economy; for that reason we think that the initiative of the Chairman and the comments of the members deserve support.

The United States has taken action in the past with respect to certain member countries, most recently Portugal, and the United States is sympathetic to the situation in which Turkey now finds itself. Indeed, this very week Mr. Chairman, there were signed agreements in Ankara in which the United States made available balance of payments support for Turkey as well as provisions for rescheduling of debt. We will continue to be concerned about this matter on a bilateral basis and we welcome opportunities to consider it with other countries because there are some occasions in which the need is so urgent that it may be necessary to have it considered on ad hoc and special multilateral bases.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER (Contd)

The draft Communiqué which we saw at an early hour this morning reflects that concern and I indicate a positive reaction on our part to that and to the presentations that have been made here this morning, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LUNS

Thank you very much, Mr. Christopher.

The distinguished Foreign Minister of the Netherlands.

Dr. VAN DER KLAUW

Mr. Chairman, we too have taken note with great concern of the serious economic problems set out in your report, Mr. Chairman, with which some of the members of the Alliance are faced and which were underlined today again by the Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Portugal, and Greece in another way.

We, as Allies, must give serious attention to these problems. The economic health of the individual members is of great importance to the Alliance as a whole. I think there is general agreement among us that the Allies should therefore promote such measures in all relevant fora; I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the Netherlands for its part will certainly do so. My Government, which in the past has already taken a number of measures to assist these Allies, will very carefully consider what further can be done in this field. Thank you.

Mr. LUNS

Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

Herr Genscher.

M. GENSCHER

Le gouvernement de la République fédérale a accueilli très favorablement l'étude qui nous a été soumise. Nous pensons qu'il est maintenant nécessaire d'en discuter à fond, parce que nous savons fort bien quels sont les problèmes qui se posent.

We have tried ourselves to help quite a bit, but we believe that this has not by any means solved the problems of these countries. That is why I think we should see what we can do in addition and the reasons for this are obvious.



Mr. GENSCHER (Contd)

The first reason is the necessary solidarity that should reign within the Alliance and amongst member states of such an Alliance, and the second is the awareness of the identity of interests since it is in the interest of all member states that there should be economic stability in all countries, this being the prerequisite for their defence capability and political stability. So I would say that solidarity and identity of interest are the factors which encourage us to join together in discussion in order to assist our friends.

Mr. CATALANO di MELILLI

Mr. Chairman, as has already been recalled during the Washington Summit, it has been recognized how important it is for the Allied countries to have a sound basis for continuing to achieve the betterment of their economic and social situations, and note has been taken of the difficulties that some countries meet in maintaining efficient and sustained economic growth, such as to allow the pursuit of an effective defence effort.

Italy, it is known, has passed through a long period of economic difficulties; even if the situation has improved we cannot say that the crisis has been overcome. This makes us particularly sensitive to the necessities that Portugal and Turkey have stressed and we fully agree with the principles of Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty related to the necessity of increasing the assistance to those Allied countries which are in a precarious situation.

Your study, Mr. Secretary General, enables us to single out the means and initiatives to be adopted by the Allies, through bilateral and multilateral channels, in order to carry out a commitment, shared by everybody, towards the Allied countries in need.

The Portuguese and Turkish Governments are aware of the initiatives that Italy has undertaken on past occasions to meet the particular needs of their countries in the field of industrial and ecological co-operation, as well as in the military equipment field.

Furthermore, I would like to recall, speaking as the Italian Chairman of the IEPG, that the Group, while differing on the modalities of European co-operation in the field of defence equipment, takes in due consideration the needs of the less developed members in this field, among whom are Greece, Portugal and Turkey.

Mr. CATALANO di MELILLI (Contd)

We have already mentioned the adverse phase of the Italian economic situation, which does not allow me, at this particular moment, to anticipate accurate information on the nature and measure of aid that my country will be able to provide in the future on a bilateral basis to those Allied countries which are in economic difficulties. But I wish, however, to confirm that any possibility in this direction will be carefully and sympathetically examined. In any case, in the multilateral sector all possible efforts will be made through the Italian Representative on the competent bodies, in order to meet in a substantial way the needs of the Allied countries and the solidarity engagement linking us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LUNS

Now I give the floor to the distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Mr. CHRISTOPHERSEN

Mr. Chairman, I think we fully realise the severe economic problems which some of our Allied countries are faced with, as stressed in the Secretary General's report. It is obvious that a hasty economic development is a prerogative for maintaining stability in member countries. Such a stability is crucial, in order to ensure that member countries are able to make adequate defence efforts in the interest of the whole Alliance.

As today we are particularly focussing on the problem which Turkey is facing, I would like to express my understanding of the difficulties of the situation. As our Alliance as such is not the most suitable organ for assisting Turkey in a direct way, it remains for us, the Allies, bilaterally or through our participation in multilateral arrangements, to do everything possible in order to make necessary steps on the road towards assisting Turkey.

As far as my own country is concerned, I can inform you that we are studying intensively all possible remedies. It is too early to predict the final outcome, but I do hope that it will be seen as the proof of the solidarity to which we, as a member of this Alliance, attach the greatest importance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LUNS

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I now call upon the distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada.

Mr. JAMIESON

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I do not wish to make any lengthy intervention. I think it is entirely appropriate that we ought to support Article 2, since one of my very distinguished predecessors, I believe Lester Pearson, was at least one of the authors of that particular document, so that we have followed that precept from the very beginning.

I have had the advantage, and the great pleasure I might say, of having bilateral discussions with my distinguished colleague from Turkey. He understands, I believe, the Canadian position; we are presently examining various ways in which we can co-operate in this endeavour and, of course, our very traditional and long-standing relationship with Portugal has been demonstrated in recent months and years as well, in a manner which we hope has been of help there.

It may be useful just to make a general observation here, which my discussions with the Turkish Foreign Minister have highlighted. In Canada's case at least, we have discovered that much of our structure in terms of economic co-operation with developing countries and the like, makes provision for the very under-developed and various others, but has a very distinct gap in it in terms of seeking to meet the kinds of situations we are discussing here today. The whole concept has emerged on a quite different kind of basis and not one related to a defence alliance or anything of that kind; and it has been as a result of the very forceful representations that have been made by my colleague from Turkey that we are in the process of now completely reviewing this, to add criteria that would warrant and would enable us to participate in the kind of things that we are speaking about this morning. So like our colleagues from the United States, who have been also acting through international organizations, IMF and the like, we are certainly completely supportive and will do whatever we can.

Mr. LUNS

We very much welcome your suggestion that there should be some discussion and preferably some decision in order to focus on the less-developed countries which are our friends and our Allies.

Mr. JAMIESON

I am not sure that we need to discuss it in a collective way. We certainly have no objection, other than perhaps our commitment to the non-proliferation of meetings. What I was saying was that our own experience may be one that is common to others here and that our structures as I repeat, have not made provision, in setting our ODA and other forms of co-operation in economic help. The countries of the Alliance do not seem to fit most of the criteria. We are examining it and, by the way, will be most happy to make whatever the results and the outcome of our assessment are available to our colleagues if it is any help.

Mr. LUNS

I welcome the second intervention, too, because it was one of the points I thought fit to make in my own report. I thank you for what you have just said.

Je donne maintenant la parole à l'Ambassadeur de France, le Représentant permanent, M. Tiné.

M. TINE

Monsieur le Président, deux mots seulement pour dire que, du côté français, la sympathie ne manquera pas dans l'examen, qui va se poursuivre, des mesures à prendre en vue du renforcement de l'aide à apporter aux pays les moins favorisés de cette Alliance. C'est un sentiment que nous avons déjà exprimé.

Nous renouvelons les remerciements que nous vous avons adressés pour le soin que vous avez mis à l'étude du problème. Le rapport que vous avez fourni n'a fait souvent que confirmer les données que nous connaissions, qui faisaient apparaître de grandes difficultés pour deux, sinon trois membres de cette Alliance. Votre rapport, à cet égard, constitue donc un instrument de travail très utile pour les réflexions des gouvernements et je puis dire que, en ce qui concerne le gouvernement français, il s'associera de façon active à la poursuite des consultations qui seront entreprises en vue de mesures dont plusieurs avant moi ont dit qu'elles dépendaient naturellement, quant à leur exécution, des voies bilatérales et des voies multilatérales existantes.

M. LUNS

Merci beaucoup Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de France. I now recognize the distinguished Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Sir John Killick.

Sir John KILLICK

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can be very brief because through bilateral contacts, I think our Turkish, Portuguese and Greek Allies will be aware of our position. Dr. Owen had a very valuable meeting with the distinguished Foreign Minister of Turkey only yesterday; we have had the visit of President Eanes to London. I would just like to say that my Government believe that NATO consideration of the economic problems of these Allies is both welcomed and valuable. It seems quite right to ask that the politico-strategic factors, the fact of the burden of defence spending in the common Alliance interest, should be given due weight in addition to the criteria which govern our normal aid policy, as no doubt it does that of other major donors.

Sir John KILLICK (Contd)

I believe, Mr. Chairman, there is solid evidence that these factors have now been brought home to the international organizations concerned with the practical measures and within national governments. It is also my understanding that very much the same process is taking place within my own Government as has been referred to by the distinguished Foreign Minister of Canada. In short, Mr. Chairman, we can support the proposed Council conclusion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LUNS

Thank you very much, Sir John. Now, gentlemen we have now had a "tour de table" in which practically all the Allies have taken part and, in my experience, which goes back to more than 26 years with NATO, it is the first time that the Allies have considered in such a way the position, in the economic field, of defence and Allies. The Chair takes note with great satisfaction of the favourable response which has been given in a general way to my report and also, I think, to the concrete suggestions in the document proposed by the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

Now, the question is where do we go from here? And that is the main point. May I take it that, first of all, we will have to consider specific military need in the Ad Hoc Committee which will foregather shortly, I think the 12th, and where, it now would seem, Turkey may count on the sympathetic attitude and sympathetic action by its Allies, just as Portugal and also of course Greece; secondly, that you will allow me to discuss with various Allies in the rather near future how they think they will proceed and how we might come to something concrete. I am not saying that I have to play any rôle in it, but it is only in order to see in what direction the action may go. It is to me and, I feel sure, to the distinguished Ministers of Portugal and Turkey and also Greece, a source of satisfaction that such very positive statements by all the countries have been made on this Report. I would, however, again underline the urgency of the problem and therefore what Mr. Christophersen said was a welcome bit of news. We do not at all begrudge Turkey for getting assistance from other sources, as you have just obtained from one of your neighbouring countries, and to a rather important extent: I think it is about 5 million tons of oil against a lot of water which is always somewhat better than a lot of gold. On our part, we certainly take note of the fact that the countries concerned should be assisted in some way, and the suggestion by the Canadian Foreign Minister especially merits all our attention. I will be working in that sense and taking, with various Ambassadors, the Council's advice in the near future. I will of course keep the governments concerned fully informed. There are no objections - then may I take it that I can say something along these lines at my Press Conference after this meeting? Thank you very much, gentlemen. Oui M. le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Turquie.

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Mr. ÖKÇÜN

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues, I would like to thank all of you for the careful attention and understanding you have shown to the problems of Turkey and this is a reflection of the solidarity within the Allies. I will take all these statements back home and express to my people there, in the coffee houses and elsewhere, as well as in general, through the press and the television.... I will say that membership of the Western Alliance really means something and it pays and it will give us the chance to achieve economic and social developments in democracy. We shouldn't, we don't need to, look at other patterns of development as certain developing countries in the world are doing. Frankly, we would like to achieve economic and social development in democracy with due respect to human rights and we are, Portugal, Turkey and Greece, the rare countries among the developing countries.... If you look at the Third World, they don't care about democracy and human rights. With such a solidarity we would offer a pattern for development to other Third World countries. That's why I highly appreciate the solidarity you have shown here and I take it as an asset and as a token of the value and tradition of the Western World I am very satisfied with the support here, but I must point out that Turkish public opinion and the Turkish people have come to a point where they are not satisfied with words and they are looking for action. That is why I fully support you, Mr. Secretary General, when you say that further action should be taken through bilateral and multilateral channels. It is because the Western World, the Atlantic Community, are facing these problems from within by assisting their own members and forming a good example that it is possible to achieve economic and social development in democracy. I thank you again, thank you Mr. Chairman.

M. LUNS

Merci beaucoup M. le Ministre. Vous avez très bien exprimé et votre gratitude et vos espérances. Je pense que vous avez parlé aussi pour vos collègues du Portugal et de la Grèce.

Nous abordons maintenant le point IV de l'ordre du jour.

It is called Progress Report by the Conference of National Armaments Directors. It has some links with Item III, which we have just discussed.

M. LUNS (Suite)

Comme le montre ce rapport, la Conférence des directeurs nationaux augmente ses efforts afin de promouvoir un emploi efficace des ressources pour l'équipement des forces de l'Alliance.

I must apologize gentlemen, the distinguished Chairman of the Military Committee had asked to speak on Item III. General Zeiner Gundersen with all my apologies.

General ZEINER GUNDERSEN

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief. I just wanted the military voice to be heard, to say that we also care about the economy and that any support or military and/or economic aid from a military point of view is seen as important not to use the word "urgent".

Mr. LUNS

That is short, to the point, and most welcome to the countries concerned. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Nous nous penchons de nouveau sur le point IV et je répéterai ce que je viens de dire : comme le montre ce rapport, la Conférence des directeurs nationaux augmente ses efforts afin de promouvoir un emploi efficace des ressources pour l'équipement des forces de l'Alliance. En particulier, cet organisme joue le rôle de catalyseur pour le dialogue transatlantique et c'est en son sein que de nouvelles propositions sont à l'étude dans le but d'améliorer la coopération entre les pays d'Europe et d'Amérique du Nord dans le domaine des équipements militaires.

Le but de cet effort est d'harmoniser le programme de recherche, de développement et de production, afin d'éviter les doubles emplois et d'assurer qu'un plus grand nombre d'armes modernes seront à la disposition des forces de l'Alliance. Armes et équipements dont la standardisation et l'interopérabilité seront plus poussées et qui pourront être soutenus dans des conditions plus avantageuses.

In addition to the transatlantic dialogue, the CNAD reports good results in establishing co-operative projects and useful progress in armament planning. This report has been examined by Defence Ministers who took the actions recommended in Part V of the report, including an addition to (b) to the effect that they "instructed National Armaments Directors to pursue this approach vigorously, bearing in mind the special interest of the smaller and less industrialized countries".

Mr. LUNS (Contd)

I believe that in the light of the debate on Economic Co-operation and Assistance, this addition will also commend itself to the Foreign Ministers.

May I take it that you agree to the report as it now lies before us, with the addition, of course? No objections, then it is adopted.

Now we come to Item V.

V. NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING

M. LUNS

Ce point de l'ordre du jour concerne le programme aéroporté de détection lointaine et de contrôle de l'OTAN, question qui a été examinée, au début de la semaine, par les ministres de la défense, au DPC. A cette occasion, des mesures concrètes ont été prises.

Premièrement, les ministres ont approuvé le programme proposé pour l'acquisition par l'OTAN d'une capacité de détection lointaine aéroportée. Tous les pays concernés, sauf la Belgique, ont signé le protocole d'accord multilatéral qui s'y rapporte avec, ici et là, des réserves dont nous avons pris note.

Deuxièmement, ils ont décidé de communiquer le projet de charte à l'organisme de gestion, la NAPMA, et de le soumettre au Conseil pour approbation. Cette charte, qui est jointe au PO/78/119, a déjà été portée à votre connaissance.

Troisièmement, le DPC a décidé que ces mesures seraient portées à la connaissance de la France et de la Grèce, afin que ces pays puissent juger s'ils désirent s'y associer et j'ai déjà envoyé des lettres dans ce sens. Les vues de la France nous sont déjà connues à la suite de la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur de France faite au Conseil le 30 novembre dernier. D'autre part, la Grèce a été informée officieusement du statut du protocole d'accord multilatéral, dont un exemplaire de la version destinée à la signature lui a été remis.

Therefore, gentlemen, I believe that before we consider the subject of the charter approval, it would be first appropriate if we gave the distinguished Minister of Greece the opportunity to make known the views of his nation with respect to the Memorandum of Understanding.



Mr. LUNS (Contd)

In this regard, I would like to ask the same question which I put, Monday last, to the DPC; is the Greek Government willing and ready to sign? M. l'Ambassadeur de Grèce.

M. LAGACOS

M. le Président, mon gouvernement a l'intention de signer le protocole d'accord multilatéral, nous espérons très prochainement. Merci M. le Président.

M. LUNS

Merci beaucoup M. l'Ambassadeur. Very welcome news. I thank the Ambassador for his positive statement. Now with regard to the procedural aspect, I believe that once Greece, as we have taken note, is actually prepared to sign the MMOU, a simple supplement to the document can be prepared which then can be signed by the Permanent Representative for Greece.. and other participant nations in order to consummate the accession.

Since Greek participation has been assumed throughout the initial planning phase, there seems to be no need for separate consideration by the Board of Directors. May I record your agreement on this point? No disagreement, it is thereby decided.

Now I suggest we turn our attention to consideration of the Charter for NAPMO, which is needed in order to provide the legal basis for this organization in its dealings with the United States Government and other organizations. Let me mention that at an earlier Permanent Representatives' Session of this Council, one nation expressed the desire that with regard to Charter approval no public announcement be made, so I have to ask for new discussion in this regard. I would further note, there has yet been no final decision on the location for the Programme Management Agency, but there was a consensus that it should be Brunssum with one country not being able yet to give its position. I would hope that Brunssum could be selected today, but then there are certain legal commitments that have to be taken by NAPMA prior to the time when they could possibly move to Brunssum.

Does anyone have any other points which he wishes to raise?

Oui, M. l'Ambassadeur de France.

M. TINE

M. le Président, sur le point principal, celui que vous avez évoqué avant d'aborder celui de la Charte, je n'ai, après ce que vous avez dit, rien à ajouter. Notre réponse a été fournie en quelque sorte avant que le DPC ne veuille bien vous prier de nous transmettre son invitation. Par conséquent, je ne reviendrai pas sur le sujet et cette affaire est maintenant claire et classée pour le moment. S'agissant de la Charte, je puis confirmer ce que j'ai eu l'occasion de dire dans un autre forum, au Conseil permanent, à savoir que nous n'avions pas d'objection à l'approbation de ce document qui, comme cela résulte du Traité, doit être approuvé par le Conseil.

J'aurais, toutefois, une remarque qui tient à la question de la langue. A la Charte, en quelque sorte, est annexé, en tout cas est lié, le protocole multilatéral d'accord. Dans sa section 26, ce protocole d'accord indique que la langue de travail est l'anglais. Or, si nous ne pouvons pas, naturellement, faire objection formelle à cette disposition, puisque ce protocole d'accord ne sera pas signé par nous, il n'en reste pas moins que la disposition qui a été prise dans un document qui se rattache à la Charte et au Traité est en quelque sorte extravagante par rapport aux habitudes et par rapport aux principes. Alors, je fais cette remarque : je considère que cette disposition ne peut, en aucun cas, faire précédent et je vous prierai d'inscrire au procès-verbal que nous considérons qu'il n'était pas souhaitable d'approuver cette disposition, étant donné que le principe que les deux langues de travail, le français et l'anglais, sont les deux langues de travail est un principe qui est éminent. Il est à ce point éminent qu'il n'a pas eu à être inscrit dans la Charte modèle de 1962 ; il n'a donc pas été inscrit dans la Charte et c'est dans un document particulier qu'il surgit. Alors, je répète les réserves que j'ai faites au début.

M. LUNS

M. l'Ambassadeur, vous avez bien fait de faire ces réserves, parce qu'il y a une certaine contradiction. On dit ici, les langues officielles pour le programme sont l'anglais et le français, la langue de travail est l'anglais. C'est un peu contradictoire et je pense que personne ne fera objection si je dis ici que le français peut aussi être employé comme langue de travail et on en prend note, parce qu'il y a des pays tels que le Canada ou la Belgique, et aussi des pays comme la Grèce, le Portugal ou d'autres, sans oublier le Grand-Duché, qui emploient couramment le français.

Je vous remercie de votre remarque.

M. TINE

Je vous remercie beaucoup de ce que vous venez de dire, M. le Président, et je dois dire que la notion même de langue de travail est une notion qui nous échappe. Il y a deux langues dans l'Organisation et il n'y a pas à faire naître la notion, qui à ma connaissance est nouvelle, de langue de travail. Il y a deux langues, il n'y a pas une langue de travail particulière.

M. LUNS

M. l'Ambassadeur, je connais cette expression et peut-être vous aussi, par votre expérience aux Nations Unies, où, lorsqu'on parle de langue de travail, on dit généralement l'anglais, le français, l'allemand, l'espagnol, etc. M. le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Belgique.

M. SIMONET

M. le Président, je voudrais simplement que nous soyons d'accord sur le sens, en particulier du point de vue juridique, du terme consensus. Si consensus signifie une unanimité implicite, moins une voix, alors vous pouvez dire que la décision est prise par consensus. Si consensus signifie une unanimité non formulée juridiquement, alors je dois vous signaler que cette unanimité n'existe pas pour le moment. Je ne dis pas qu'elle n'existera jamais, mais pour l'ensemble du dossier de l'AWACS, mon gouvernement a demandé de pouvoir réserver sa position. Je tenais à le signaler.

M. LUNS

Vous avez parfaitement raison, M. le Ministre. Consensus ne veut pas dire unanimité moins un ; c'est un non sens. Et vous avez raison ; il n'y a pas eu de décision.

Gentlemen, now that we have completed our task with regard to this Item, let me point out to you that a meeting of the CNAD High Level Group which was previously scheduled for the 19th December should now in fact become the first meeting of the NAPMO Board of Directors. Since there is no one yet named as Chairman of this body I propose that the Assistant Secretary General for Defence Support serve as temporary Chairman, in order to open this significant meeting and oversee the initial activities through to the election of a Chairman by the Board. Meanwhile, let me suggest that nations undertake consideration of whom they will designate to the Board of Directors, which might well be at a different level than for the High Level Group Representatives and that they give further consideration to nomination of the Chairman as well as identifying candidates for the principal officers of NAPMA.

Mr. LUNS (Contd)

Finally, let me note that all nations express the hope that Belgium will soon be able to join the programme, as soon as her political situation allows and parliament votes that it is permitted. Therefore, would you agree that Belgium be invited to participate as an observer in the initial meeting of the Board of Directors, until such time as we can have Belgium in the fold of that august body. No objection?? Decided.

VI. COMMITTEE ON THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY

Mr. LUNS

Gentlemen, we now come to Item VI. Gentlemen, I take pleasure in presenting to you as Chairman the yearly report of the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society. As you will see, this year has been an extremely full year and an extremely fruitful and active year. Six studies have been completed; these are Advanced Waste Water Treatment, Alternative Sources of Energy and Conservation, Automotive Propulsion System and Nutrition and Health. They have made major contributions to international efforts to meet some of the problems in their respective areas.

D'autre part, le Conseil a approuvé de nouvelles études qui doivent contribuer à doter les administrations intéressées de meilleures méthodes d'estimation des ressources en eau et de prévision en cas de tremblement de terre. D'autres études visent à mettre à la disposition de nos pays de nouveaux moyens de transport et de meilleurs services ambulatoires. Le CDSM encourage également la réduction des gaspillages par le recyclage et la récupération des matières premières. En définitive, le CDSM continue d'être le mécanisme approprié et efficace pour la coopération technologique dans les domaines d'importance majeure pour nos pays. Les ministres n'ayant ni commentaires, ni remarques, je me plais à constater qu'ils ont pris note avec satisfaction de ce rapport, à part l'Ambassadeur de la Grèce à qui je donne maintenant la parole.

M. LAGACOS

M. le Président, je voudrais simplement féliciter le Comité sur les défis de la société moderne et le Secrétariat, et tout particulièrement M. le Secrétaire général adjoint, le professeur Ozdaş, pour le travail accompli pendant l'année 1978. Les projets qui sont conclus, surtout en ce qui concerne le problème de l'énergie, ont contribué à accroître les connaissances des pays de l'Alliance et ont offert de nombreuses opportunités de collaboration entre ces pays.

M. LAGACOS (Suite)

La Grèce, pour sa part, a beaucoup profité de sa participation au projet de l'énergie solaire et de géothermie. En ce qui concerne les nouveaux projets, nous participerons aux travaux de séismologie et de services médicaux d'urgence. Beaucoup de laboratoires et de services administratifs grecs ont exprimé leur vif désir d'y participer. M. le Secrétaire général, je voudrais finir cette brève intervention en vous assurant que mon pays intensifiera sa participation aux projets du Comité l'année prochaine. Merci.

M. LUNS

Merci beaucoup, M. l'ambassadeur. La présidence s'associe volontiers au généreux hommage que vous avez bien voulu rendre au Secrétaire général adjoint turc, et j'en ai pris bonne note, ainsi que de vos déclarations positives. Merci beaucoup M. l'ambassadeur. Item VII.

VII. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MINISTERIAL SESSION

Mr. LUNS

On the invitation of the Netherlands, we know already - but you have the floor, Mr. Minister.

Dr. VAN DER KLAUW

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like officially to invite the Council to come to the Hague for the next Ministerial Meeting. I note that the dates are chosen so that the tulip season is over, but I can assure that even at that time of Spring and early Summer the Netherlands is a beautiful country and I, on behalf of the Netherlands Government, cordially welcome the Council at The Hague.

Mr. LUNS

Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. The Ministers are invited to take note of the invitation of the Netherlands Government and Ministers are invited to agree that for planning purposes the dates of the 30th and 31st May next have been earmarked for the meeting. On behalf of the Council I thank the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs for the invitation. There are very few mountains in Holland, but this I can say from experience - it is in quite a few respects a rather beautiful country. Yes, Sir John.

Sir John KILLICK

Mr. Chairman, I just wondered if it might be appropriate, while of course associating myself with your remark, to record hereunder this item, the consensus that was reached yesterday in the Restricted Session that nobody wished to embark on the preparation of a declaration for this meeting. This will not otherwise be recorded.

Mr. LUNS

Yes. Thank you very much. It is good that you repeat it here because it will be recorded here and the Ministers were in complete agreement. Thank you, Sir John.

Now gentlemen, a little detail, the Communiqué.

VIII. COMMUNIQUE

[The Council then considered the text of a Communiqué to the press. After discussion and amendment, this was subsequently released as M2(78)22.]

FINAL REMARKS

Mr. LUNS

Gentlemen, this ends our meeting and our work. I may take note of the fact that on the whole it was a rather good meeting and I wish all the Ministers Godspeed in their return to their capitals and happy relations with their Parliaments. Adjourned.