

MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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June 18, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: NSC Meeting on NATO, Wednesday, June 19, 12:00 Noon

Key Issues

Mutual Force Reductions - We are proposing that the NATO Ministers adopt a resolution stating the Alliance is studying mutual force reduction proposals and expressing the hope that the Communist countries will undertake similar studies. The objective is: to encourage the Communists to join us in moving towards a balanced reduction in forces and to help offset domestic pressure for a unilateral reduction of U.S. troop strength in Europe.

NATO and East-West Relations - Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium have been active in bilateral efforts to improve East-West relations. The problem is to see that these bilateral moves are coordinated in NATO. The Berlin crisis could change this. It is on the agenda, and we expect it will be mentioned in the communique.

Mediterranean - There has been a lot of worry in NATO over the growing Soviet military and political strength in the Mediterranean. Two measures are being considered: increased surveillance of Soviet fleet activities; and the possible establishment of a quick reaction NATO naval force in the Mediterranean.

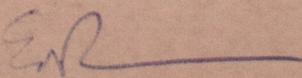
NPT - We have consulted closely with our NATO allies on the NPT. We hope to gain further support for the Treaty at Reykjavik. The West Germans and Italians remain skeptical regarding the Treaty's value. The West Germans are citing the latest Berlin crisis as possible grounds for not signing or delaying their signing of the NPT.

Questions

1. Where is the Berlin crisis likely to go? How will it affect NATO?
2. What is the likely Soviet response to a NATO mutual force reductions proposal?
3. What are the Russian's goals in the Mediterranean? Should we be doing more to counter their increased presence in that area?
4. Will the Germans use the Berlin crisis to avoid signing the NPT?

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.5
NLJ-S 88001

By cbm, NARA, Date 7-10-02


Ed Fried

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