

NATO WILL SET UP ATOM-PLANS UNIT

Bonn to Get Strategy Role
as a Permanent Member
of 7-Nation Committee

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PARIS, Dec. 14 — Fourteen of the 15 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, meeting without France, decided today to set up a permanent nuclear planning group of four permanent and three rotating members to determine Western nuclear strategy.

The United States, Britain, West Germany and Italy were understood to be the permanent members. The first three rotating members, to be replaced after 18 months, are likely to be Canada, Turkey and The Netherlands, but no final decision was announced.

The delay was understood to stem from intense rivalry between some of the smaller nations, notably Turkey and the Netherlands, that insisted on being included in the group.

Supervisory Group Panned

The number of rotating members was originally set at two. It was increased to three after it became clear that none of the candidates would withdraw.

The seven-nation planning group will operate under the supervision of a larger body to which all the members of the alliance will belong except France, Iceland, Luxembourg and probably Norway.

An American spokesman, pleased with the creation of a permanent machinery, said it marked the beginning of the "most important, most intimate consultation" on nuclear strategy and nuclear weapons ever undertaken on an international basis.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara participated in today's meeting.

In the afternoon, President de Gaulle received Mr. Rusk and

Continued on Page 8, Column 4

NATO to Set Up Nuclear Panel Including Bonn

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen at the Elysée Palace for talks that lasted nearly an hour.

The Secretary said later that there had been a general exchange of views on the international situation. He said that Vietnam was discussed but not the possibility of a meeting between Presidents Johnson and de Gaulle.

General de Gaulle and Mr. Rusk are understood to have made no attempt to revive the hopelessly deadlocked negotiations on the possible use of American military bases in France in the case of war. This, apart from Vietnam, is the most important point of friction between the two countries.

American military bases here are being liquidated at President de Gaulle's request. But originally there had been hope that they could be reactivated in the case of a war.

The French now insist that this could be done only in a war in which France had actually decided to fight on the American side, leaving open the possibility that the United States might be involved in war and France might not.

Brandt Addresses Europeans

British and American officials attending the NATO meeting took divergent views on the larger meaning of the creation of a nuclear consultation machinery in the alliance.

In the British view, today's action permanently killed all plans for the formation of a multinational nuclear force in which West Germany would get access to nuclear weapons as distinct from access to consultation on nuclear strategy.

American officials, on the other hand, maintained that such a solution was not pre-empted by today's action.

However, the new West German Government of Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, in its policy statement yesterday, had declared that it did not aim at the "physical possession" of nuclear weapons.

Willy Brandt, the new German Foreign Minister, spoke solemnly here today about his Government's desire to make a genuine contribution to world peace by

increasing its contacts with its Eastern neighbors.

Mr. Brandt addressed the Assembly of the Western European Union, an organization of representatives of the Parliaments of Britain and the Common Market countries — France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. His speech, which did not go beyond yesterday's Government statement, appeared to make a deep impression on his listeners.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Brandt delivered a speech that did not have the same emphasis on "detente" with the East. He was talking to the NATO ministers at a closed session devoted to a discussion of the nature of the Communist threat.

He was quoted as having said that Communist aggression was improbable but not out of the realm of the possible. It is not impossible, he was said to have added, that the Soviet leaders

in a crisis would take armed action if they misjudged the cohesion of the alliance. His speech was reminiscent of statements of Gerhard Schröder, his predecessor and at present Defense Minister.

Sources close to the West German delegation explained that the earlier speech had been prepared by officials who were holdovers from the previous Administration and that Mr. Brandt had seen the text too late to make revisions.

Secretary Rusk, in his contribution to the discussion on the nature of the Communist threat, was reported to have cautioned the allies against assuming a fundamental change in Soviet policy and against letting their guard down.

By contrast, Denis Healy, the British Minister of Defense, was reported to have been one of the leading exponents of the view that the current improvement in East-West relations was fundamental and lasting.