

3 Negotiators Will Meet Here Today On NATO Troop Strength in Europe

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The three negotiators named to determine the Western troop levels required in Europe to maintain an adequate deterrent, and who should pay for what forces, will meet here today and Thursday.

But final answers to the sensitive questions being studied by them are not to be expected at this time, informants said yesterday.

This will be the second meeting of the three: John J. McCloy, of the United States; George Thompson, British Minister of European Affairs, and Karl Carstens, No. 2 man in the West German Foreign Ministry.

NATO will be represented by Arthur Hockaday, a special assistant to Secretary General Manlio Brosio.

The three negotiators were named by their governments in September when it became clear that West Germany would not cover the entire foreign exchange costs of keeping American and British forces in Germany. It was decided then to take another hard look at the entire question of over-all Allied troop requirements and of financing.

McCloy, the 71-year-old veteran adviser to Presidents, met with his two partners in Bonn Oct. 20-21. They discussed "questions of defense policy, the defense burden and the foreign exchange problems resulting from the stationing of troops in Germany"; a communique said.

Three working groups were established: one to study the Soviet military threat to Europe today; another the

Allied military and strategic position in NATO's "central front," meaning Germany; and the third the financial aspect. The groups met in Bonn.

The meeting beginning today will review position papers from each group. The three men are expected to give the groups some new instructions, likely narrowing down the problems.

They will meet again at the end of this month, presumably in Bonn, to prepare an interim report for the December meeting of NATO Ministers.

A final report is expected by mid-January.