

NATO Plans To Establish 2 A-Groups

By Anatole Shub

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PARIS, Dec. 14—North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations, meeting without France, agreed today to establish two permanent committees on nuclear affairs but their precise functions and powers remained unclear.

Of the 15 members of the alliance, 12 (all except France, Iceland and Luxembourg) will now constitute a broad Nuclear Defense Affairs Committee which will serve as a permanent advisory group. Luxembourg and Iceland, which has no armed forces, will be free to join later if they wish. France has withdrawn from military activities of the Alliance.

Seven members—the U.S., Britain, West Germany and Italy on a permanent basis, plus three others on a rotating basis—will form a Nuclear Planning Group. This group, a formalized version of the so-called McNamara Committee of Defense Ministers which has been functioning on a temporary basis, is charged with two functions:

The development of strategy involving the nuclear weapons available to the alliance, and participation by non-nuclear nations in discussion of plans involving strategic weapons.

It appeared, from the cautious information supplied by various U.S. and alliance sources, that the new group would be discussing primarily the 7000 U.S. nuclear warheads—of a tactical nature—deployed on the continent of Europe. What was unclear was whether the group would actually talk about the massive U.S. strategic deterrent.

It was also left unclear

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whether the consultation machinery involved in the two committees would solve the so-called nuclear sharing problem raised some years ago by the West German government, which wanted to participate in the nuclear decisions of the alliance. German officials today said merely that they welcomed formation of the groups.

The new West German Cabinet is divided on the issue. Foreign Minister Willy Brandt and the Social Democrats in the Bonn government consider consultation in nuclear planning sufficient.

Defense Minister Gerhard Schroeder, however, has argued that consultation is "no substitute" for a so-called "hardware solution"—that is, creation of a multilateral or Allied nuclear force.

Since none of the nuclear powers has any intention of creating such a force, the issue is critical only with regard to the attitude of the West German government toward a possible East-West non-proliferation treaty.

The U.S. and Russia have bogged down on whether such a treaty must close the possibility of a multilateral force. Brandt is prepared to approve a treaty "closing the option." Schroeder has been firmly opposed.

The new Nuclear Planning Group will be formally composed of Defense Ministers, but between their meetings the work will be handled by permanent representatives at the NATO Council.

The three rotating members will be selected for 18-month terms from among Canada, Belgium, The Netherlands,



Associated Press

WHISPERING—Canadian Foreign Minister Paul Martin whispers to Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer after a session of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Paris. The Paris newspaper, *Le Monde*, reported yesterday that Lemnitzer has submitted his resignation as Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe but the general's headquarters denied the report.

Denmark, Greece and Turkey, Portugal and Norway, while serving in the broad advisory committee, have declined to participate in the Nuclear Planning Group.

Formalization of these arrangements was the main decision reached by the 14 na-

tions meeting here, in advance of the 15-nation (including France) meeting of the North Atlantic Council which opens Thursday.

Most of today's session was devoted to an inconclusive debate over Allied force levels in the 1968-72 period. The dis-

cussion turned primarily on whether Allied troop levels should reflect Soviet military capabilities or political intentions.

Britain argued that Allied forces can and should be reduced because of the current detente with the Soviet Union.

U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk took a more cautious view. He noted the up-and-down nature of East-West relations, and argues that the Soviet Union could change its political intentions faster than the West could adjust its military capabilities.

The U.S. position appeared to be one of playing for time. The U.S. is awaiting, among other things, clearer reading on the views of the new German government, the possibility of mutual troop reductions with the Soviet Union, and the outcome of various Allied contacts with Russia and other Warsaw Pact countries.

Discussions Watched

The bilateral discussions being watched with greatest interest this week are Brandt's meeting with French President de Gaulle Thursday, and British Chancellor of the Exchequer James Callahan's meetings with French Economics Minister Michael Debre.

Brandt is expected to arrange details of a meeting between de Gaulle and the new German Chancellor, Kurt-George Kiesinger. (The Bonn government announced the meeting will be Jan. 13-14 in Paris.)

Rusk saw de Gaulle, as well as Brandt and other Ministers, in the course of the day. The discussions were described as routine.