

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD ✓
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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POSSIBLE ECONOMIC COUNTERMEASURES TO BE TAKEN
IN THE FACE OF THE BERLIN CRISIS

List of basic Issues prepared
by the Working Group on Economic Countermeasures

In accordance with the decision of the Council at their meeting of 4th October(*), the Working Group is submitting the following list of basic issues for consideration by the Council:

- (1) Do all NATO countries agree that, in the event that military and civilian access, air or ground, to West Berlin is blocked, the immediate imposition of significant economic countermeasures amounting to a total economic embargo against the Soviet bloc would be an appropriate response? If so, do all NATO countries agree to plan their concerted participation in this effort?
- (2) Do all NATO countries consider that, in the event referred to in (1), the situation would be so serious that a total economic embargo should be applied automatically? If not, how do they envisage the ultimate decision being taken?
- (3) Are all NATO countries which do not yet possess the legal and administrative powers to apply an immediate total economic embargo ready to take the necessary action in order to obtain these powers? Do some NATO countries consider that there is a distinction to be drawn between administrative action to obtain such powers on the one hand, and steps which would require parliamentary action on the other?
- (4) Do all NATO countries agree that, under certain circumstances, a threat to apply economic countermeasures to be taken by all members, could be an adequate effective

(*) C-R(61)50, Item I, paragraph 18.(4)

means of deterring the Soviet bloc?

- (5) Are NATO countries prepared to provide exceptional economic assistance on a collective basis to those members of the Alliance who would be most seriously affected by economic countermeasures?
- (6) Are all NATO countries prepared to undertake some form of special economic co-operation among themselves and, possibly in conjunction with other countries of the free world, in order to mitigate the effect of economic countermeasures on their economies and the economies of the rest of the free world?

Note: Since the question of economic countermeasures short of a total economic embargo to be taken in specific contingencies other than the blocking of access from the West to West Berlin is still under study, the present list does not necessarily exhaust the full range of basic issues.

(Signed) R.W.J. HOOPER
A. VINCENT
Joint Chairmen of the
Working Group

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