

NATO Structure Must be Up-Dated

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The following is excerpted from the "Position Paper" that Congressman Quie submitted for his task force to the Republican Platform Committee at the San Francisco convention.-Editors.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS are urgently needed to make the NATO Alliance more durable and effective in serving the many common interests of the North Atlantic community-economically and politically, as well as militarily. A regional organization such as NATO cannot be expected to exist for twenty years without adapting to meet new conditions. NATO must be evolutionary and constantly changing as the nations of the free world strive toward their objectives of peace and freedom for all. The dangerous disarray of this vital free-world association must be halted.

The Republican Party favors a permanent NATO trade council with the power to regulate all trade with Communist countries and the responsibility to develop a unified NATO trade policy with the non-Communist countries and within NATO itself. NATO is united in moral purpose; it must also be united in economic power.

In place of holding-the-line policies and indecision, the Republican Party would work for greater structural unity. Faith must be restored in the effectiveness of collective defense as the best road to national security. The prime goal of future U.S. policy must be to capitalize on and to stimulate every shared interest and ideal that unites the free nations of the West in a common heritage of justice, rule by law, and individual freedom. We believe that by strengthening our ties with the NATO community of nations we will in turn strengthen ourselves.

In order to build a more effective alliance, as well as to demonstrate to the world the principles upon which our Republic is based, we propose a careful re-assessment of our NATO policies. We denounce the Administration policy of meaningless "consultations" with NATO allies when our policy-makers are actually asking only for a rubber stamp for U.S. preconceptions. Instead, we call for real participation of all NATO nations in the decision-making process as well as in sharing equitably the common burden of defense." Arm-twisting serves only to alienate our friends and erode our allied strength.

We must not shy away from experimenting with novel organizational devices if and where they can serve to symbolize and strengthen unity. The immediate need, however, is not for new or more elaborate institutions but rather the will to use better what we already have. The time has come for an immediate and thorough study of the NATO structure itself. The house of freedom

can be no stronger than its foundation and framework. The task is urgent and vital, calling for the very best talent the U.S. and other NATO nations can offer.

The U.S. therefore, should take the initiative in calling a conference for the purpose of formulating and proposing for ratification improvements in the structure of the NATO Alliance. The U.S. should name as delegates the most knowledgeable, experienced and eminent Americans available so as to motivate other NATO nations to select their best talent, too.

Greater unity in the free world is imperative. Developments in Europe or the U.S. that weaken Atlantic unity are undesirable. The U.S. must explore with its European allies the fields, forms, and degrees of unity which would be mutually advantageous. Rather than looking toward the construction of elaborate new "supranational" institutions, the U.S. must be ready to build upon the foundations of practical, workable interdependence.

[Earlier in his statement Quie said:] A serious blunder on the world front has been the tactless and undiplomatic handling of General Charles de Gaulle. The Democratic administration has overlooked the historic significance of France and de Gaulle's vision for rebuilding the French nation. Instead, President de Gaulle, like other NATO leaders, has been ignored and slighted. Now, of course, he is making it very difficult for us to carry out our plans even though the plans at times are vague and undefined.

The "hot line" linking Washington and Moscow is yet another example of our apparent eagerness to welcome our enemies to our hearth while shutting our friends out in the cold. Although the ostensible reason for the "hot line"-to prevent accidental nuclear war-is good, the psychological effect on our allies is both disastrous and unnecessary...All this could be avoided by the establishment of a "hot circuit" which would give our NATO allies full partnership in negotiations between Washington and Moscow. This action would increase NATO unity, while at the same time retaining the advantage of the "hot line" to Moscow.

Another flaw in the NATO fabric is America's refusal to provide her allies with weapons necessary for the common defense of the Western world. The implication that we do not consider our friends responsible enough to make decisions is leading to further disunity. Promises to use our nuclear might in the event of war mean little to Europeans when they face possible annihilation before American power can be brought to bear against the enemy. Also, there are grave doubts in the minds, of some of our allies that we would risk nuclear retaliation if it could be avoided by holding our own nuclear weaponry in check.

The administration has failed to make a distinction between nuclear armaments for massive retaliation and tactical nuclear weapons which would be used in conventional warfare. There is an urgent need for us to consider seriously the proposal that the U.S. make available to NATO member nations smaller tactical nuclear weapons to be kept under their control. For many in Europe, some participation in control has become a symbol of sovereignty.

