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CABINET

EUROPEAN DEFENCE: M. MENDES-FRANCE AND GERMANY'S ENTRY INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION

MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I circulate to my colleagues herewith a Note by Sir G. Jebb (Annex A), referring to Sir R. Makins' telegram No. 2068 of 24th September (Annex B).

A. E.

*Foreign Office, S.W. 1,
28th September, 1954.*

ANNEX A

I see that Mr. Dulles told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that "according to Murphy" Mendès-France had said that he was "not in favour of Germany's entry into N.A.T.O., which would not be acceptable to French opinion."

Achilles showed me Murphy's actual telegram to Dulles recording his meeting with Mendès-France, which I summarised in my telegram No. 676. I have no recollection of Murphy having made in that telegram the remark attributed to him by Dulles, though it may well be that Mendès-France mentioned at some stage that France was not as a whole in favour of Germany joining N.A.T.O., which of course is the case. This, however, is a very different thing from suggesting that Mendès-France will actually oppose Germany's entry into N.A.T.O. On the contrary, he has agreed to this; provided of course that he can get agreement on safeguards.

ANNEX B

From Washington to Foreign Office

Sir R. Makins
(No. 2068)
September 24, 1954.

European Security.

Chancellor of Exchequer paid a brief courtesy visit with Mr. Dulles to-day and found him in a pessimistic mood about the prospects of the Nine-Power Conference.

2. This pessimism was based on telegrams which he had received from Murphy in Paris. According to Murphy, Mendès-France had said that he was not in favour of Germany's entry into N.A.T.O., which would not be acceptable to

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French opinion; and that his real objective was a new E.D.C. with Britain in. Murphy had also seen Alphand who had expressed the view that Mendès-France was looking in the longer term to the fall of Adenauer and the advent of a socialistic government in Germany leading to a rapprochement with Russia.

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3. Mendès-France also seems to have told Murphy that the London conference must not be allowed to fail; that it could continue for a week or two weeks and that thereafter a month should be given to the experts to work out the solution.

4. Dulles then said that he greatly valued his visit to London and his discussions with you and the Prime Minister. He was most appreciative of your efforts with the European countries in the last couple of weeks and said he was wholly sympathetic with your policy objectives in Europe.