

FEBRUARY 24, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

---

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President and NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns met for forty-five minutes this afternoon for a broad ranging discussion of issues of current interest to the North Atlantic Alliance. Other participants in the meeting included NATO Assistant Secretary General Joerg Kastl, the U. S. Ambassador to NATO David Bruce, Secretary Kissinger, and Donald Rumsfeld, Assistant to the President and former U. S. Ambassador to NATO.

The President expressed his appreciation to the NATO Secretary General for his outstanding service to NATO, emphasizing the continuing importance of the Alliance to the United States and all member Nations. The conversation included a review of Alliance defense arrangements, and a review of the status of major negotiations of interest to the Alliance--including the European Security Conference, the Force Reduction Talks in Vienna, and the ongoing SALT negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The discussion included a review of developments in the Middle East. The President and Secretary General Luns also devoted considerable attention to the serious impact on NATO of the U. S. cutoff of military aid and sales to Turkey. There was agreement that the action could have serious consequences both for the prospects of a settlement in the interests of all parties on Cyprus and for the defense of NATO's southern flank. The President informed the Secretary General that the Administration is working with the Congress to resolve this problem.

At the conclusion of their meeting, the President and Secretary General Luns agreed on the value of close consultations among the members of the Alliance. The President asked the Secretary General to convey an invitation to the Permanent Representatives of the North Atlantic Council to come to Washington for further consultations at the White House this spring. Secretary General Luns said it would give him great pleasure to convey the President's invitation and that he was sure it would be accepted with pleasure.

# # #