

U.S. CITIZENS COMMISSION ON NATO

JUNE 23, 1960.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ZABLOCKI, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 170]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 170) to authorize the participation in an international convention of representative citizens from the North Atlantic Treaty nations to examine how greater political and economic cooperation among their peoples may be promoted, to provide for the appointment of U.S. delegates to such convention, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably and unanimously thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

Senate Joint Resolution 170 is similar in intent to House Concurrent Resolution 107, House Concurrent Resolution 108, and related resolutions, on which the Committee on Foreign Affairs heard testimony on May 17, 1960. Among those who testified in support of this legislation were Dr. Edward H. Litchfield, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, Hon. Percival F. Brundage, former Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and Mr. Clarence K. Streit. Statements were also submitted by the Honorable William L. Clayton, former Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, and the Honorable Wayne L. Hays, a Representative in Congress from the State of Ohio.

Senate Joint Resolution 170 would create a Commission of not more than 20 private U.S. citizens to be appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House after consultation with the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees. The Commission would be directed to seek to arrange and participate in a convention attended by similar citizens' commissions from the other NATO countries for the purpose of developing paths toward greater political and economic cooperation within the alliance. Members of the Commission would serve without compensation but would be reimbursed

for their expenses. They would be authorized to employ and remunerate a staff of not more than 10 members. While in no way enabled to represent the United States officially, the Commission would report, and account for its expenditures, to the Congress. Not to exceed \$300,000 would be authorized to be appropriated for the resolution's purposes; not more than \$100,000 of that sum would constitute the Commission's share of expenses in any international conference. The Commission would cease to exist on January 31, 1962.

Since the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization 11 years ago, the principal focus of the Organization has been on greater military cooperation and collaboration among the signatories. This was, and still is, a necessary function. During the past several years there has developed within the NATO community a recognition that such cooperation and collaboration should extend into the political and economic areas, not only to counter the stepped-up Soviet bloc economic offensive, but to add strength to NATO's military efforts. The architects of the North Atlantic Treaty gave recognition to the importance of nonmilitary collaboration by providing in article 2 of the treaty that—

The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them.

The NATO Parliamentarians' Conference in 1957 unanimously recommended that a conference of leading representative citizens from the NATO countries be convoked to examine this matter and to make recommendations "how greater cooperation and unity of purpose * * * may best be developed." In June 1959 the Atlantic Congress met for a week in London. Its 650 delegates discussed a wide range of activities that could appropriately contribute to that end. The Fifth NATO Parliamentarians' Conference in 1959 reaffirmed its proposal for a citizens' meeting.

The committee is of the opinion that there is no monopoly of ideas among Government officials on this important matter. The strength of a democracy lies in an enlightened citizenry. The resources of a democracy include the ability to call upon its citizens to contribute their thinking to the common good. The Hoover Commission is an example of the contribution that a Citizens' Commission can make. It is contemplated that those who would be appointed would not be bitter partisans of a particular viewpoint. Rather they would have a depth of knowledge and understanding and a flexibility of approach that would make it possible to develop reasonable and intelligent recommendations to achieve the objectives sought.

It is clearly the intent of the Congress that the citizens appointed to the Commission are not to be spokesmen for the U.S. Government. The executive branch is the recognized channel for official communications between governments.

The question was considered whether existing bodies such as the NATO Parliamentarians' Conference and other groups could not do

the job contemplated for the Commission. All of these other bodies meet for short periods ranging from a few days to a week. They are unable to give the sustained attention to the problems that a full-time Commission could give to them. They do not draw from as wide an area among the citizens as it is expected that the Commission would.

Other countries would appoint similar commissions on a weighted basis. Thus the United States would have 20 participants, France and Great Britain about 14 or 15 each, and the smaller countries the smallest representation.

Some attention was given to the geographic expansion of the terms of the resolution in order to include representatives from countries other than the North Atlantic Community. There was no basic opposition to that idea. But it was considered desirable to limit initial participation to those countries that have already created a framework for collaboration. In fact, one of the issues that the Commission may well consider is the extent to which participation could be widened.

The functions of the Commission are to explore the means by which greater cooperation and unity of purpose may be developed, to report its findings to the Congress, and to make such recommendations as it deems appropriate. It has no power to bind the U.S. Government.

The Commission will expire on January 31, 1962. This will permit about a year and a half of work. The members will serve without compensation but shall receive reimbursement for their necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties. Of the \$300,000 authorized to be appropriated for its work, \$100,000 may be used to pay the U.S. share of conference and meeting expenses. The balance will be used for the necessary expenses of the individual members and for compensation of a temporary professional and clerical staff not to exceed 10 individuals. Payment of funds will be upon vouchers signed by the Chairman of the Commission. All funds expended will be subject to the rules and regulations governing the accountability of obligations and expenditures made under the jurisdiction of the Department of State. Such accounts are subject to review by the Comptroller General. Wherever it is possible for the Commission to meet its expenses through the use of local currency, the Commission will use appropriated dollars to purchase such currencies.

Events during the past month give renewed emphasis to the need for cooperation. The threats to our own security have intensified. The means by which we can meet these require the fullest exploration within and outside the Government. The committee expects that the leading private citizens who would serve on the Commission would inject into discussions with citizens of comparable caliber from other countries some new approaches that are both practical and constructive.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs unanimously recommends to the House the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 170.

