

INTERPRETING

# President's Agenda Places NATO First

By J. M. ROBERTS  
Associated Press News Analyst  
President Kennedy, putting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Allied economic relations at the top of the agenda for his talks with Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, places new emphasis on his campaign for greater Western solidarity before tackling the Soviet Union.

This approach also avoids stressing the tension over Laos at a moment when there appears to be some Soviet desire to avoid a showdown there.

Kennedy is in an unusual position. He has made no changes in the substance of American foreign policy, but with a few changes in emphasis and procedure he seems to have created almost a worldwide impression that this is a time for new approaches.

Relations with Britain have hardly been so good since the war. Kennedy has captured the imagination of both government and public. Policies regarding Asia which have never been parallel are now beginning to fall into line. And the most important thing seems to be that Britain is now agreeing because she wants to, and not merely because she considers the Anglo-Saxon alliance an historical necessity.

Relations with France are not so good. One reason undoubtedly is because Britain sits so close to the throne. Kennedy, by announcing plans for a visit to French President Charles de Gaulle, is making a play to assuage that feeling and settle differences.

The United States is taking a moderately tough stand toward German economic policies and

participation in the world development program. Kennedy plans to explain all that to German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer personally.

This is a period of test and counter-test in world diplomacy. The Communists have been trying diligently to find out at just what points Kennedy will react to their pushing—as in Laos—and to their blandishments—as in their conciliatory actions in the United Nations.

## Kennedy-Macmillan Hold 'Useful' Talks

By The Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — President Kennedy and Britain's Prime Minister Macmillan had a "most valuable and useful" talk on world problems Wednesday but did not resolve differences about Red China.

The leaders of the two most powerful free world nations conferred for more than seven hours at the White House in the first day of a three-day series of consultations.

They concentrated on ways to strengthen the Western Alliance politically against the Communist threat, and also on bolstering the United Nations and improving aid programs for underdeveloped countries.

"Most valuable and useful," said authoritative sources on both the American and British sides to describe the wide-ranging talks.

Kennedy is trying to lay a solid groundwork for the future of the Western Alliance during the coming decade, and this was Macmillan's first chance for a general chat with the new President. The parleys, attended by top aides on both sides, were described as completely cordial.

Kennedy and Macmillan in general were said to have agreed on a need for strengthening the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's political consultations, on lessening European trade disputes, on improving coordination of industrial countries' aid to backward areas and on buttressing the United Nations.

On the question of United Nations admission of Red China, however, the two countries have not seen eye to eye.

Informants said Kennedy and Macmillan outlined the respective views of their governments on Red China. However, no attempt was made to unify their respective positions, it was said.

Thus the divergence on the issue remained.

The most serious crisis spot of the moment, Laos, was on both American and British minds, but it was not discussed for the time being pending word from Moscow. The British, now negotiating with the Soviet Union on terms of a cease-fire in the troubled Asian kingdom, expect an agreement will be reached shortly.

So Kennedy, 43, and Macmillan, 67, both dressed in pin-striped blue suits, spent much of the day



"... I'll have to admit I didn't know you could burn diesel oil in a cigarette lighter!"

## Hammaraskjold Will Offer Resignation

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y.—Dag Hammarskjold declared Wednesday he is ready to resign as U. N. secretary-general any time the General Assembly feels he should get out.

He repeated his previous insistence, however, that he will not bow to Soviet resignation demands unless the 99-nation assembly asks him to do so.

The secretary-general's statement generally followed the lines of his declaration of last Oct. 3, but went a step further by placing a standing offer of resignation before the assembly.

Hammarskjold addressed the assembly in the Congo debate. He said the Soviet bloc had been trying to build up a case against him to back Soviet Premier Khrushchev's demands that he resign.

His offer seemed certain to be left on the shelf, since only nine Soviet bloc countries have called for his resignation or dismissal.

Hammarskjold made it clear he would consider silence of the assembly to mean that he should remain in office.

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