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CIVIL DEFENCE COMMITTEE

WORKING GROUP ON REFUGEES

CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF TURKISH
PLANS AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Reference: AC/23(CD/RE)N/39

Informations on plans concerning the stay put concept and its application:

- (a) In accordance with the NATO principles and national regulations among the people living in the danger zones, the families of the military personnel including the families of the allied headquarters and units personnel and the persons whose capture by the enemy would represent a risk, will be evacuated.
- (b) Persons who are outside the above category will stay put. In order to implement this concept, the local authorities will take strong measures, and if necessary the military authorities will assist in the implementation of these measures.

2. There exists a plan prepared by the military authorities for the control and transportation of refugees in time of war or in a period of mounting tension.

- (a) There have been bilateral negotiations between the Turkish and Greek military authorities concerning temporary movements of refugees as a result of enemy action. Although, as a result of these bilateral negotiations, a temporary military agreement was established, this agreement has not yet been finalised in the form of a regular bilateral agreement through diplomatic channels.

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- (b) Although, the above-mentioned agreement provides measures for 50,000 refugees, one must accept the fact that the stay put concept cannot be applicable to refugees from non-NATO countries. These refugees, especially from Turkish origin, will fly to Turkey from bordering countries either as a result of enemy pressure or as a consequence of hostilities.

The number of refugees from non-NATO countries is expected to be very important. There is no doubt that refugee movements on such a scale will cause great harm to NATO's common strategy.

A similar situation occurred during the Second World War when 30,000 persons sought refuge in Turkey between 1941 and 1946. Most of these refugees fled upon their own initiative and the majority came from Europe.

- (c) Because of this probability and since movements on this scale will gravely harm NATO's operations in the area the problem of the refugees coming from non-NATO countries and especially the study, and financing concerning such movements, should be included among the Terms of Reference and the responsibilities of the NATO Refugee Agency. Large scale movements of refugees will not only hamper military operations, but will also constitute a heavy burden on Turkey's economy and will create financial difficulties exceeding Turkey's possibilities to solve them.

Note: There are 700,000 persons of Turkish origin in Bulgaria, 20,000 in Syria, 20,000 in Iraq and 1,000,000 in Iran.

OTAN/NATO,
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