

## NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES

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SUMMARY RECORD

D-R(51)26

OR. ENG.

11th April, 1951

Summary Record of a meeting of the Council  
Deputies held at 13, Belgrave Square,  
London, S.W.1. on Monday, 9th April, 1951  
at 3.0 p.m.

### PRESENT:

Chairman - Mr. C.M. Spofford (United States)

Vicomte Obert de Thieusies (Belgium)      Mr. L.D. Wilgress (Canada)

Count Eduard Reventlow (Denmark)      M. H. Alphanđ (France)

M. G. Petursson (Iceland)      Signor A. Rossi-Longhi (Italy)

M. A. Clasen (Luxembourg)      Jenkheer A.W.L. Tjarda van  
Starkenborgh-Stachouwer  
(Netherlands)

M. D. Bryn (Norway)      Dr. R.E. Ulrich (Portugal)

Mr. C.A.E. Shuckburgh (United Kingdom)

### SECRETARIAT:

Mr. T.A.G. Charlton  
M. J.C. Debray

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I. DISCUSSION WITH LIEUTENANT GENERAL GRUENTHER, CHIEF OF STAFF OF SHAPE

1. LT. GEN. GRUENTHER made an informal statement on the proposed internal organization of SHAPE and the contemplated command organization under General Eisenhower. By agreement no record of this discussion was kept.

2. THE CHAIRMAN thanked Lt. Gen. Gruenther for his most helpful and informative statement. Lt. Gen. Gruenther's visit had shown once again the importance of personal contact between the respective NATO agencies. He proposed to follow this example and intended to visit Monsieur van Zeeland, the Chairman of the Council, in the near future in order to discuss with him the general progress which had been made since the last Council meeting.

II. APPOINTMENT OF SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER ATLANTIC.

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)25, Item V)

3. THE CHAIRMAN said that unfortunately the United States Government was not yet in a position to give their final agreement to the proposed appointment. He hoped, however, that this would not be long delayed.

4. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

Took note of the Chairman's statement.

III. NATO REORGANISATION

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)24, Item VI)

5. The Council Deputies had before them the revised draft terms of reference of the Council and the Council Deputies (Document D-D(51)86 (Revise)).

6. THE FRENCH DEPUTY said that his Government were now prepared to accept the draft of paragraph 4 of document D-D(51)86 (Revise) proposed by the United States Government.

7. THE PORTUGUESE DEPUTY made a formal statement setting out the attitude of his Government towards the proposed draft terms of reference (the text of which was subsequently circulated as Document D-D(51)93).

8. In the light of this statement the Portuguese Deputy suggested three amendments to Document D-D(51)86 (Revise) namely:

(a) Paragraph 10. Insert before the last sentence "On matters of vital importance the decisions of the Council Deputies shall be executory, but provisional and subject to confirmation by the Council of Ministers at their next ensuing meeting. Matters which shall be considered of vital importance shall be those acknowledged as such by at least three countries".

(b) Paragraph 11(c) Adopt the wording of the first alternative text for paragraph 11 (c) as set out in Document D-D(51)86 of 30th March, 1951. i.e. "furnish direction to the military agencies of the North Atlantic Treaty

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Organisation as to political considerations upon which strategic decisions should be based".

(c) Paragraph 11 (c) Delete last sentence and substitute "The Council Deputies shall be advised by the Military Agencies of the NATO on matters having military implications".

9. The amendments proposed by the Portuguese Deputy received no general support. In discussion, the following considerations were advanced:

(i) Proposed addition to paragraph 10

It had always been understood that any decisions taken by the Council Deputies could be reviewed by the Council at their next meeting and if necessary reversed. It was the normal practice for the Council Deputies to submit a report on their activities to the Council at each meeting, thereby giving Ministers an opportunity of commenting on any decisions which they had taken. On general grounds of policy a number of Deputies urged that no phrasology should be inserted in the terms of reference which would tend to weaken the authority of the Council Deputies or to delay their decisions on matters of importance.

(ii) Paragraph 11 (c)

With reference to (b) above, it was pointed out that in the course of the discussion held on 4th April, the Chairman had indicated that for the purposes of this particular context the terms "political direction" and "political guidance" were synonymous. In the light of this assurance the Netherlands Deputy, who had previously raised the question, had agreed not to press for the substitution of the term "political guidance" for the term "political direction". It had also been agreed that a suitable formula covering this interpretation would be incorporated in the record of the Deputies meeting at which the revised terms of reference of the Council and Council Deputies were ultimately approved.

(iii) Paragraph 11 (c)

With regard to (c) above, the PORTUGUESE DEPUTY explained that his amendment did in fact represent a withdrawal from the position which he had taken up at previous meetings, namely that the political guidance from the Deputies should be transmitted to the Standing Group through the Military Representatives Committee. The revised wording was intended to leave the position open.

10. The majority of the Deputies felt however that no attempt should be made to amend the existing organization of the military agencies of NATO until sufficient time had elapsed to enable the organization to prove itself in practice. In addition, it was pointed out that the Chairman of the Standing Group had recently emphasised the close relationship which had been built up between the Standing Group and the Military Representative Committee, and it was

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evident from his statement that the Military Representatives Committee were performing a useful consultative function. It was also pointed out that the amendment as proposed by the Portuguese Deputy would eliminate the reference to the need for close liaison between the Council Deputies and the Standing Group. This would be most unfortunate. The recent visit of Vice Admiral Wright had proved the desirability of this close liaison and furthermore, the Deputies had welcomed the proposals outlined by Vice Admiral Wright for the appointment of a Standing Group Liaison Officer with the Council Deputies.

11. THE DANISH DEPUTY said that while his Government would have preferred to see the immediate reorganization of the military agencies of NATO on the lines proposed in Document D-D(51)4, he did not wish to press this point.

12. It was, however, agreed after discussion that the question whether or not the Council Deputies should press for the immediate reorganization of the military agencies should be left open until a final text had been established for paragraph 11(c), which had some bearing on this particular issue.

13. THE CHAIRMAN said that he had two textual amendments to propose, namely:

(a) The deletion of the last sentence of paragraph 10.

(b) The addition, at the end of the penultimate sentence of paragraph 10, of the words "who will be responsible to all Ministers concerned with NATO matters in his Government".

14. The amendment proposed at (a) above was accepted. With regard to the amendment at (b), the consensus of opinion was that the precise responsibility of individual Deputies towards their respective Governments was a matter of domestic concern which should not be covered by the terms of reference. In the case of those countries which had a Cabinet form of Government, the addition was superfluous. In other cases it might give rise to awkward constitutional points e.g. in the possible event of a disagreement arising between individual Ministers in a given government all of whom were directly concerned with NATO affairs.

15. THE CHAIRMAN referred to the point made by the Portuguese Deputy that governments should be given sufficient time to consider memoranda circulated to the Council Deputies before the Deputies were called upon to reach a decision. He thought that it would be difficult to legislate for all cases, but, in general, he felt that sufficient time had been given in the past. He would,

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however, prefer not to lay down any further rigid rules but to treat each individual case on its merits, as some questions clearly required longer study by governments than others.

16. The Council Deputies then considered whether or not it was desirable to retain the proposed agreed minute relating to paragraph 4 of the revised terms of reference of the Council and Council Deputies (circulated as Appendix B to Document D-D(51)20). After discussion it was agreed that the balance of advantage lay in the retention of this agreed minute.

17. It was also agreed that final action on Document D-D(51)86(revise) should not be delayed until the proposed Financial and Economic Board had been established. In view of this there would be no section V at this stage but an amendment to the terms of reference would become necessary if and when the Financial and Economic Board was set up.

18. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

- (1) Invited the Portuguese Deputy to reconsider his amendments in the light of the points raised in discussion.
- (2) Invited the Chairman to reconsider his proposed addition to paragraph 10 in the light of the considerations raised.
- (3) Agreed that it lay within the competence of the Council Deputies to approve the revised terms of reference of the Council and the Council Deputies without formal reference to the Council in advance.
- (4) Agreed to resume their discussion on Monday, 16th April.
- (5) Agreed that when the outstanding points of difference had been settled sufficient time should be left to permit reference to governments before final approval was given to the text.

IV. DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE STATUS OF NAT ARMED FORCES.

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)15, Item I).

19. THE CHAIRMAN said that amendments to the draft convention (Document D-D(51)57) had now been received from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Portugal and the United States. He hoped that any other countries wishing to submit amendments would do so without delay in order to permit the Working Group to convene on 16th April as arranged.

20. The Council Deputies were informed that amendments proposed by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom would be available within a day or two.

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21. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

Invited those Deputies, whose governments had not already submitted amendments to the draft convention, to submit them as soon as possible.

V. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL BUDGET FOR SHAPE.

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)25, Item II).

22. THE CHAIRMAN said that owing to the late hour it would not be desirable to embark on a discussion of the SHAPE budget. He proposed therefore that the various questions arising out of the SHAPE budget should be considered by the Council Deputies at their next meeting.

23. THE FRENCH DEPUTY, speaking in a personal capacity, suggested that one possible solution might be for the Council Deputies to reach a rapid decision on the method by which funds should be made available for the headquarters of SHAPE itself, leaving for more mature consideration questions of infrastructure and the SHAPE subordinate commands. As an interim measure, funds for infrastructure projects the expense of the subordinate commands might be provided by a system of advances.

24. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

Agreed to continue their discussion of the SHAPE budget at their next meeting.

VI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

25. It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday, 11th April, at 3.0 p.m. At this meeting the Council Deputies would consider the Military, Political and Economic Conditions in Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria and Albania (Document D-D(51)80) and also the various reports which had been submitted by the Working Group on the Establishment of an International Budget for NATO.