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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES

SECRET

SUMMARY RECORD:

D-R(51)19

OR. ENG./FR.

14th March, 1951.

Summary Record of a meeting of the
Council Deputies held at 13, Belgrave
Square, London, S.W.1. on Monday, 12th
March, 1951, at 3 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

Vicomte Obert de Thieusies
(Belgium)

Mr. L.D. Wilgress (Canada)

M. H. Alphan (France)

Count Eduard Reventlow
(Denmark)

Signor A. Rossi-Longhi (Italy)

M. G. Petursson (Iceland)

Jonkheer A.W.L. Tjarda van
Starkenborgh-Stachouwer
(Netherlands)

M. A. Clasen (Luxembourg)

M. D. Bryn (Norway)

Dr. R.E. Ulrich (Portugal)

Sir Frederick Hoyer-Millar (United Kingdom)

SECRETARIAT

Mr. T.A.G. Charlton

M. J.C. Debray

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I. NATO REARMAMENT

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)16, Item II).

1. THE ITALIAN DEPUTY made a statement summarizing the proposed increases in defence expenditure which had been approved by the Italian Government.

2. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

(1) Instructed the Secretary to circulate the statement made by the Italian Deputy. (Subsequently circulated as Document D-D(51)71).

3. The Council Deputies then considered the statement made by the Norwegian Deputy on Norway's increased rearmament plans (Document D-D(51)65). There was general agreement that this memorandum was most helpful and encouraging.

4. THE CHAIRMAN said that in his opinion the series of statements by individual Deputies on their countries rearmament plans was proving most useful. It might be useful to draw up a summary of these statements when the series was complete.

5. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

(2) Took note of the statement by the Norwegian Deputy (Document D-D(51)65).

II. MILITARY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HUNGARY, ROUMANIA, BULGARIA AND ALBANIA.

6. The Council Deputies had a preliminary exchange of views on the military, political and economic conditions in Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria and Albania. In accordance with the agreement reached at their meeting held on 15th January, 1951 no record of this discussion is being circulated (Summary Record D-R(51)3, Item IV).

7. THE CHAIRMAN suggested that the procedure adopted for the exchange of views on Yugoslavia should also be followed in this instance and that an Ad Hoc Working Group should be instructed to prepare an agreed summary, setting out the concensus of the views expressed in discussion, for subsequent consideration by the Council Deputies after consultation with their respective governments. This agreed summary would not constitute any commitment for the NAT countries with regard to future action. He suggested that it might help future exchanges on political questions if the Ad Hoc Working Group could devise an agreed outline which would consist of a number of specific questions, on the basis of which the respective governments would be asked for instructions. The main object of this outline would be to enable those governments whose sources of information were more restricted than others to frame specific questions on which they were anxious to obtain information from other NAT countries.

8. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

(1) Instructed the Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare a draft agreed summary on the lines proposed by the Chairman.

- (2) Instructed the Working Group to draw up an agreed outline, for transmission to governments, consisting of specific questions on which instructions from governments would be sought.
- (3) Agreed to hold a preliminary exchange of views, at a meeting to be held the following week, on military, political and economic conditions in Eastern Germany.

II. REPORT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC PLANNING BOARD FOR OCEAN SHIPPING (ORGANIZATION FOR SCREENING ESTIMATES OF WAR TIME COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS)

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)18, Item III).

9. The Council Deputies continued their discussion on the report of the North Atlantic Planning Board for Ocean Shipping (Document PBOS/2/26) and the memorandum by the French Deputy for maritime transport in time of war or emergency (Document D(51)55).

10. THE ITALIAN DEPUTY was in agreement with the memorandum by the French delegation (D-D(51)55) which, in his opinion, dealt very effectively with the vital problem of maritime transport in case of war or emergency. He felt however, for the reason stressed last time by the Netherlands Deputy, that the Council Deputies should take steps to establish without unnecessary delay the body which should be the supreme arbitrator in matters of priority when military and civilian needs conflict. This should be done in order also to avoid the situation described in paragraph 7(3) of the French memorandum.

11. THE CANADIAN DEPUTY expressed his agreement with the formation of a Working Group as envisaged by paragraph 7(2) of the French memorandum. He thought, however, that the terms of reference of this Working Group should be different: its primary concern should be to consider the organisation of the Priorities Board to operate in time of war. In his opinion, such a group could operate within the framework of the future economic organisation of NATO. It was certainly necessary to set up a body to allocate priorities as between civilian and military requirements. It was not the major products which were in obvious demand, which created the problem but those border-line products which, although important, were not absolutely essential.

12. The work of this group would run parallel to that of the Planning Board for Ocean Shipping. The problem of the destination of the goods was inseparable from the problem of what nationality of the vessels in which they would be shipped. At present, the scope of the Planning Board for Ocean Shipping was confined to NATO and the Working Group also should concern itself only with NATO. In future, if countries which were not members of NATO placed their fleet at the disposal of the common pool, those countries would also have to take part in the surveys relating to the Priorities Committee.

13. THE DANISH DEPUTY was of the opinion that the Working Group should examine the general principles which would govern the future action of the Priorities Committee. The survey should cover non-NATO countries. He agreed to the formation of the Working Group.

14. THE PORTUGUESE DEPUTY had no objection to the Canadian proposal. But it should be specified at the outset whether the Working Group should operate immediately or only in an emergency. It should also be specified that the future organisation should be empowered to handle both civilian and military requirements.

15. THE CHAIRMAN considered that there were two separate questions at issue. The first was whether it was desirable for the NAT countries to undertake an advanced planning study of the bases for allocation to establish common standards in advance of the outbreak of war and possible also to make a preliminary evaluation of requirements. If so what NAT body should be charged with this task. He thought that this question should certainly be discussed, although he doubted whether really positive results could be obtained at this time. It would in his view be preferable to set up this planning body within the framework of the new NATO economic agency as soon as the latter had been brought into being.

16. The second question was which body should be charged with allocating priorities in time of war. In his opinion it was premature to begin to examine these question immediately since they lay outside the scope of NATO and particularly because they concerned those countries which were not members of the North Atlantic Organisation. It would therefore appear to be difficult to embark on the consideration of this point at this time.

17. THE FRENCH DEPUTY expressed the view that it was possible to start forthwith considering standards which might serve as a yardstick against which the estimate of requirements could be measured and also to undertake a survey of those requirements. A similar study had already been undertaken by the Civilian Requirements Sub-Committee of the Planning Board for Ocean Shipping, but this work had not been completed because the sub-Committee did not have available the necessary data and economic experts. He thought however that a group of qualified experts would no doubt be able to complete this task satisfactorily since the Planning Board for Ocean Shipping itself had considered it feasible. With regard to the organisation of the Priorities Committee, the Planning Board for Ocean Shipping had raised the question itself. It should immediately be decided which bodies would deal with these priorities; in the view of the French Government, the appropriate ones would be the Standing Group for military requirements, a NATO civilian body for civilian requirements, and lastly a higher Authority to arbitrate between the two. He saw no objection to the survey of wartime requirements being carried out within the framework of the future NATO economic organisation, provided that such an organisation could be set up at an early date. Otherwise, immediate steps should be taken to form a separate Working Group.

18. THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPUTY stated that he was not in a position to agree to the proposals which had been put forward and that he would have to consult his Government. The problem was essentially political in nature and depended on future events which could not be foreseen.

19. THE NETHERLANDS DEPUTY agreed that the survey proposed in the French memorandum should be undertaken. In his opinion, the formation of a Priorities Body should be discussed

/immediately,

immediately, and not in the inevitable confusion which would be caused by an emergency or the outbreak of war.

20. THE NORWEGIAN DEPUTY stated that he did not consider a priori that it was premature to commence such a survey, but that he thought it was linked with general economic and political questions. In these circumstances, he would like to see the survey carried out within the future framework of the NATO Economic Organisation.

21. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

- (1) Agreed to continue their discussion at the last meeting to be held before the Easter holidays.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE NATO STATISTICAL SERVICE

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)10, Item II).

22. The Council Deputies had before them a report by the Working Group on the collection of Basic Statistics (Document D-D(51)67).

23. THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPUTY said, with reference to paragraph 6, that he attached great importance to the concept of the statistical work of NAT being carried out under central direction, although he appreciated that for administrative reasons it might be necessary to decentralize a portion of the proposed statistical staff. With regard to the size of the Statistical Service, he suggested that it would be preferable to appoint the Head of the Service in the first instance, and await his recommendations on the size of staff rather than to specify the precise establishment in advance.

24. There was general agreement with the above points.

25. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

- (1) Took note of the report by the Working Group on the collection of Basic Statistics (Document D-D(51)67).
- (2) Invited the Chairman to take this report into account in establishing the NAT Statistical Service.

V. STATUS OF THE AD HOC REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE DEFENCE EFFORTS OF NAT COUNTRIES.

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)12, Item V).

26. The Council Deputies had before them a note by the Working Group on the collection of basic statistics (Document D-D(51)68) which set out the latest developments on the collection of statistical material on the present levels of defence expenditures, the progress of defence production and the state of the armed forces of the NATO countries.

27. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

- (1) Took note of Document D-D(51)68.

VI. PARTICIPATION OF GERMANY IN THE DEFENCE OF WESTERN EUROPE

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

28. THE CHAIRMAN recalled that he had undertaken to give some additional information on the discussions which had taken place at the meetings held on 2nd February and 16th February.

29. At the meeting held on 2nd February the representatives of the German Federal Republic had:

(a) Stated that they were unwilling to undertake any detailed preparatory work on the raising of German troops until an agreement had been reached on the organization of the tactical units to be created.

(b) Repeated that, as proof of their peaceful intentions, they had no desire to recreate the German armament industry unless they received a specific request to do so particularly from the French Government. It appeared, however, that this decision did not necessarily cover the manufacture of component parts.

30. At their meeting held on 16th February, the representatives of the German Federal Republic had given an indication of where they would propose to locate the German forces. A total of 250,000 was envisaged, which would be divided as follows:

(a) Twelve combat formations of 10,000 men each	120,000
(b) Service units	30,000
(c) Tactical air force and coast defence	65,000
(d) Reinforcing troops	20,000
(e) Administration and territorial troops	15,000

31. The location of the tactical formations would be dependent partly on their future employment in combat on the areas from which they would be recruited and partly on the available training areas. It was their intention that the supply units which would be formed with bases of 4,500 men for each two combat formations, should be placed under the command of the proposed "Intermediate Commander", thereby freeing the commanders of the combat formations from all administrative and supply responsibilities. The German representatives undertook to submit their proposals with regard to the formation of regimental combat teams for subsequent inclusion in discussions at the next meeting, on the assumption that the other NAT countries were prepared to do likewise.

32. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

(1) Took note of the Chairman's statement.

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VII. CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN ARMY

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)14, Item I)

33. THE FRENCH DEPUTY informed the Deputies of the results of the Paris Conference on the European Army. Progress had been made in two different directions. In the field of general policy, a considerable measure of agreement was reached on the institutions which would have to be set up. This agreement was not yet unanimous, due in particular to the fact that the Italian Delegation would prefer a college of Commissioners to a single European Defence Commissioner. These were minor divergencies, however, which could be overcome. In these circumstances, the French Delegation had prepared a draft convention as a working paper, on which discussions were about to begin.

34. In the military field, Germany had not yet expressed her views on the integration of her military units within European units. In the course of the previous week, the German delegation had put forward a concrete proposal to the effect that active units numbering 10 to 12,000 men should be formed, comprising two "combat teams" of the same nationality. These active units could be integrated with other active units of different nationalities to form the larger European unit containing a European command and ancillary services. This view was unacceptable to the French delegation which proposed that the basis should be a European division formed of three "combat-teams" of different nationalities. If therefore appeared that the views of the German and French delegations no longer differed on a point of principle but of degree. In any event, it was necessary to await the confirmation by the German Government of the proposals made by their representatives. If this confirmation was forthcoming, discussions on a technical level could begin.

VIII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

35. It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Tuesday, 13th March, 1951, at 3 p.m.

13, Belgrave Square,
LONDON, S.W.1.