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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
11th November, 1977

DECISION SHEET
DRC/DS(77)15

DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting held at NATO Headquarters, Brussels,
on Thursday, 10th November, 1977

DECISION SHEET

I. APPROVAL OF THE DECISION SHEETS OF THE 10TH, 11TH AND 12TH MEETINGS

Documents: DRC/DS(77)10
DRC/DS(77)11
DRC/DS(77)12

1. The DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

approved the Decision Sheets of the 10th, 11th and 12th meetings.

II. REVIEW OF COUNTRY FORCE PLANS FOR THE PERIOD 1978-1982

Reference: DPC/D(71)10

Multilateral Examination of the Force Plans of Turkey

Documents: DRC/WP(77)2 (Draft Country Chapter)
DPC/D(77)20 (Statistical Annex)

2. The DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

- (a) noted that the draft Country Chapter prepared by the International Staff, with the assistance of the NATO Military Authorities (DRC/WP(77)2 TURKEY), would be amended as appropriate in the light of the discussion at the meeting; and that the revised version(1) would be submitted to the Defence Planning Committee in Permanent Session and subsequently to Defence Ministers as supporting documentation for their consideration of countries' commitments for 1978 and of the NATO Force Plan for 1978-1982,

This document includes: 1 Annex of 4 pages

(1) To be issued as DPC/D(77)20, TURKEY

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(b) noted a statement made by the Turkish Representative (attached at Annex).

III. FORCE PROPOSALS FOR THE PERIOD 1979-1984

3. The DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

noted a statement by the Chairman on the above subject (issued to members as JdeG(77)109, dated 10th November, 1977).

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STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE

(See paragraph 2(b))

"Mr. Chairman, Dear Colleagues.

We should like to thank you for your efforts to prepare the Turkish Chapter of the Draft 1978-1982 NATO Force Plan in such a short time after the Trilateral Examination which was held in Ankara on 21st October.

First of all, I would like to express that we reviewed the Draft Turkish Chapter and appreciated it as a positive document for Turkey, especially from the view point of reflecting our important defence problems.

At this meeting, being among high level force planners, I wish to touch briefly upon some of the significant points effecting out national planning which is in consonance with NATO defence planning requirements.

In spite of the continuing efforts for detente, the Warsaw Pact military power continues to grow both in quality and quantity and increases its effectiveness. In addition, Turkey has vast land and sea boundaries with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. This situation increases the threat against Turkey. Furthermore, Turkey's strategic position between the Soviet Union and the Middle East, which is one of the trouble spots of the world and where the Soviets show a great interest, adds new dimensions to this potential threat.

Consequently, we sincerely believe in the necessity of achieving the 1977-1982 Force Goals with a view to increasing both our national defence capabilities and NATO's defence posture in the Southern Flank.

As is well known, there are two important stages in the realization of force goals. The first one is to provide the financial resources, and the other is to convert these resources into military capabilities.

From our point of view, Turkey allocates the maximum possible financial resources to the realization of her force goals. In other words, total defence expenditure of Turkey is not being lower than 5.5% of the Gross Domestic Product, and annual defence budget allocation is also between 20 - 30% of annual budget expenditures. In order to attain the Five Years Force Plan, starting from 1978, Turkey has planned to allocate approximately 70 billion T.L. or 3.5 billion US Dollars for the modernization programmes and the maintenance expenses of the Turkish Armed Forces.

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It is obvious that these defence expenditures have caused serious limitations and adverse effects over Turkey's developing economy.

Turkey also has some difficulties in converting the financial resources, allocated to strengthen her Armed Forces, into military capabilities. The most outstanding of these difficulties are the problem of finding the procurement resources and the problem of foreign currency.

As you all know, the US arms sales restrictions imposed on Turkey is still continuing and the Defence Co-operation Agreement between US and Turkey has not yet been approved by US Congress. In addition, I should point out that the implementation of the embargo affects the other procurement resources in a negative way. Obstacles in NAMSAs is a sample to this fact, whereas NAMSAs is an important resource for Turkey.

I want to touch on another point related to the subject agreement. This agreement foresees totally one billion US Dollars Military Assistance in a four year period, after approval, comprising 200 Million Dollar grant aid and 800 Million Dollar credit. Whereas, approximately one billion Dollar expenses in a year is necessary for the procurement of the major weapon and equipment systems and spare parts needed by the Turkish Armed Forces. This situation shows that only one fourth of our yearly foreign currency requirement will be met by this agreement after its entering into force.

Under these circumstances, we are expecting concrete conclusions from the studies and efforts of the Ad Hoc Group on Military Assistance to Portugal and Turkey.

However, I should immediately add that no result could have been obtained from similar efforts done in the past. Therefore, we believe that first of all, political decisions to be taken by NATO's authorized organs are necessary for military assistance to Turkey.

Apart from the studies of the Ad Hoc Group to ease the adverse effects of the foreign currency deficiencies of Turkey on the procurement of defence weapon and equipment systems and spare parts, we also wish that our Allies provide us with long term sale possibilities having low advanced payments and low interests.

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If I may, I would now like to draw your attention to a simple but an important fact, which largely affects our modernization plans. As it is well known by my colleagues, Turkish contribution to NATO in manpower is one of the most significant in the Alliance. However, no matter how outstanding this manpower may be, its capabilities have to be improved and upgraded in parallel to the modernization of our Armed Forces, again by Turkey's limited financial resources. The importance of our defence efforts will further be appreciated when the matter is considered in the light of the fact that Turkish Armed Forces are a truly regular, in place force with minimum mobilization requirements. Turkey does not foresee any manpower reduction to compensate for its modernization attempts financially, even though the increase in manpower calls for an additional financial burden on her available resources.

Under all the circumstances I have so far expressed, the last three years have been an unfortunate period for the Turkish Armed Forces, that brought forth a number of uncertainties which not only delayed the realization of our modernization plans, but also began to create a serious question to maintain our armed forces. As a consequence of these circumstances, Turkey's replies to DPQ-77 cannot be expected to include much significant improvement when compared with our 1976 and also 1975 replies.

As a last point, I would like to extend my remarks to the limitations of financial and procurement resources needed to increase Turkey's military capability and on the short term measures. The realization of Turkey's short term measures, which are shown in the Military Committee memorandum dated 14th July, 1977 (and numbered MCM-51-77), also depends upon the lifting of the US arms sales restrictions, ratification of the Defence Co-operation Agreement by US Congress, other external procurement resources facilities and the passage of Turkey from her own foreign currency bottleneck.

Finally and especially, I wish to touch on another subject which is about the requirement of modernization of the Turkish Air Force. As it is known, four combat squadrons have been put under the NATO commands and 12 combat squadrons have been assigned to NATO. Four squadrons out of this total 16 have been modernized; and for the modernization of three other squadrons, the procurement of a certain number of modern aircraft has been contracted. The modernization of the remaining nine squadrons until the middle of 1980s has been covered by national plans, but under the foreseeable economic and financial conditions, national funds could not be allocated to this purpose.

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Therefore, the Turkish Government has made some attempts to have F-104G Aircraft as grant aid or at reasonable prices from her Allies who have decided to phase out the F-104Gs when these countries will put F-16 and Tornado in service.

In this connection, I should like to inform you that we are processing our request on this subject through the appropriate NATO channels.

The basic purpose of my particular reference to this subject in this forum is to request support and favourable consideration from this distinguished gathering.

My reference related to F-104G Aircraft also reminds me of another point. Some weapon systems which have been phased out by NATO countries from their services are still being used in the Turkish Armed Forces. We have observed that some spare parts of these systems are being sold to private companies, whereas, a substantial assistance could be provided to Turkey with those spare parts were they made available to us. I would like to bring this fact to your appreciation.

There might be some points in our Country Chapter which might need clarification and explanation. We hope that, during our discussions in this meeting, our delegation will have the opportunity to help our colleagues to have a better understanding of Turkey's Force Plan for the period of 1978-1982.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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