

QUICK ACTION FLIMSY

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent


DSGM-49-65

26 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: The French Representative
The United Kingdom Representative
The United States Representative
The Chairman, Military Committee

SUBJECT: Director's Monthly Status Report
to the Military Committee

In accordance with instructions given at a recent informal meeting of the Standing Group the attached draft letter from the Chairman of the Standing Group to the Norwegian Military Representative is submitted for your approval.


ERNST FERBER
Major General, German Army
Director

1 ENCLOSURE:
Draft Ltr from
Chmn SG to Norwegian MR.


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ENCLOSURE 1

CSGM-8-65

28 May 1965

1 1. My colleagues and I have given detailed consideration
2 to the request which you made at the 167th Meeting of the
3 Military Committee concerning the Director's Monthly Status
4 Report. We are anxious that this report shall be of maximum
5 value to the Military Committee and appreciate the reasons for
6 your request.

7 2. We are conscious however that if the Director were to
8 mention every month the status of every item under consideration
9 by the Standing Group his report would become unduly long. It
10 took him 50 minutes to report on 37 items on 6 May 1965 and a
11 report on every item would, it is estimated, take about two
12 hours. Moreover, his monthly reports ~~would~~^{might} become repetitious.
13 ~~because, as we all know, progress in our Alliance on any particu-~~
14 ~~lar problem can often be slow because unanimity is required. We~~
15 are of the opinion therefore that for the Director to report
16 "no change" on several items would serve little useful purpose.

17 3. But the objections of length and repetition outlined
18 above would be of no consequence if it were essential for the
19 Members of the Military Committee to be informed personally
20 every month on the progress of every item under consideration.
21 My colleagues and I feel sure, however, that you will agree with
22 us that it is neither necessary nor desirable that the Military
23 Committee, the highest military body in NATO and consisting of

1 Officers of General and Flag Rank, should address itself
2 every month to the progress of every item under study by its
3 executive agency. [~~We would regret, therefore, the institution~~
4 ~~of too detailed status reports by the Director as tending to~~
5 ~~degrade the status and dignity of the Military Committee.~~]

6 4. Nevertheless we appreciate your desire to follow
7 the progress on items mentioned by the Director and it is
8 therefore intended to introduce the following new procedure
9 which, it is hoped, will meet your request.

10 5. The pro-forma for the Director's next status report
11 will be set out with the customary four sections, but under
12 each item will be a reference to the number given to it in
13 the pro-forma for the report made on 6 May. To give an example:

14 Should action be completed, before the Director gives
15 his next report, on item (B)(7) of the report made on
16 6 May namely, "Amendment No.3 to SACEUR's EDP", this
17 item will appear in Section (A) of the pro-forma for the
18 Director's next report but under the subject title
19 "Amendment No.3 to SACEUR's EDP" will be written "April
20 (B)(7)".

21 It is thought that such cross-referencing will enable
22 the Military Representatives to compare the current pro-forma with
23 that for the previous month and to see very quickly those items
24 which were previously mentioned but which are not now being
25 mentioned because there is nothing new to report.

26 6. We hope that this new procedure, after it has been
27 operating on a trial basis for two or three months, will have
28 proved satisfactory and will be acceptable to the Military
29 Committee.

30 7. This procedure will not, of course, affect in any way
31 the customary presentation by the Director of his report nor will
32 it preclude the asking of questions by any Military Representative

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- 1 either at the meeting, or afterwards, on subjects which
- 2 are of particular interest to him or his Authorities.

Chairman, SGN

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Enclosure 1

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