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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ~~NATO SECRET~~ APPROVED FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STAFF COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

PRIORITY

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27 Feb 67

N A T O S E C R E T (LOCOM 7775)
SUBJECT IS: PRESENTATION ON MARITIME STRATEGY
REFERENCE: DPWG/A(67)8, 20 Feb 67 -

1. THE PRESENTATION ON MARITIME STRATEGY WAS INTRODUCED BY AD COLBERT AND GIVEN BY CAPT-LEVEIT OF CINCHAN STAFF AND CAPT FULTON SACLANTREPEUR. ON CONCLUSION, QUESTIONS WERE INVITED FROM MEMBERS OF THE DPWG.
2. THE GERMAN REP SAID HE WOULD LIKE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO BE GIVEN IN RESPECT OF THE BALTIC AREA. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED SHAPE WHETHER THEY COULD ENVISAGE GIVING SUCH A PRESENTATION. SHAPE REP SAID THAT SUCH A PRESENTATION WAS NOT PLANNED. HE UNDERSTOOD THE SACLANT PRESENTATION TO HAVE GIVEN A CONCEPT

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Per Authority IMSM-0462-02
By Houskova Date 16 8 2007

ON HOW NAVAL FORCES MIGHT BE USED AND IN THIS SENSE THE WHOLE NATO AREA HAD BEEN COVERED. WITH REGARD TO THE BALTIC HE THOUGHT THIS WAS VERY MUCH MORE A PLACE WHERE NATIONAL FORCES WERE LOCATED AND DID NOT LEND ITSELF TO A SIMILAR PRESENTATION. THE US REP ASKED WHETHER THE QUESTION OF A POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE STANDING NAVAL FORCE HAD BEEN CONSIDERED. AD COLBERT CONFIRMED THAT IT HAD. HE ENVISAGED THE FORCE BEING MOVED IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES BUT USED IN THE OPERATIONAL SENSE, ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NAC. FOR EXAMPLE, IT COULD BE CALLED UP QUIETLY TO A SEA RENDEZVOUS AND MOVED TO WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF A THREATENED AREA WITHOUT ANY PUBLICITY AND WITHOUT INCREASING TENSION SUCH AS WOULD BE INEVITABLE IN MOVING TAND OR AIR FORCES ACTUALLY TO THE THREATENED AREA.

3. THE UK REP WELCOMED THE CONCEPT OF USING NAVAL FORCES TO PREVENT WAR. HE AGREED WITH THE US REP THAT POLITICAL CONTROL WOULD BECOME A SENSITIVE PROBLEM DURING PERIODS OF TENSION. HE THOUGHT THAT ANY NAVAL FORCE, SUCH AS THE STANDING FORCE, WHICH HAD BEEN DESCRIBED WHICH BECAME PERMANENT WOULD REQUIRE CHANGES TO BE MADE IN THE ALERT SYSTEM. HE ASKED IF SACLANT ENVISAGED SUCH CHANGES. AD COLBERT THOUGHT THAT SOME FORM OF PRE-NATO

ALERT SYSTEM MIGHT BE DEVELOPED IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE MARITIME CONTINGENCY FORCE TO BE BROUGHT TO A HIGH STATE OF READINESS

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IN ANTICIPATION OF DEPLOYMENT ORDERS. THE NORWEGIAN REP DID NOT THINK THAT THE GROWTH IN THE SOVIET MERCHANT AND FISHING FLEETS WAS IN ITSELF SIGNIFICANT AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT AS GREAT AS THE INCREASE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THOSE OF HIS OWN COUNTRY. AD COLBERT SAID THE WIDE DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET FISHING AND MERCHANT FLEETS COULD COVER THEIR INTENTIONS AND HE DESCRIBED HOW CLOSELY THESE FLEETS WERE CONTROLLED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

4. THE GREEK REP ASKED WHETHER RUSSIA HAD ANY OF HER MERCHANT VESSELS BUILT OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION AND WHETHER THERE WAS ANY WAY OF KNOWING IF THE FISHING FLEET WAS INDEED FISHING. AD COLBERT SAID THE SOVIETS WERE EMPLOYING SHIPYARDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO BUILD THEIR VESSELS. HE DESCRIBED ONE SOVIET TRAWLER DURING EXERCISE STRAIGHT LACE KEEPING STATION AT 23 KNOTS WITH THE EXERCISES FLEET AS A CONFIRMATION THAT NOT ALL THE TRAWLERS WERE FISHING. THE NETHERLANDS REP WONDERED HOW THE CONCEPT OF A STANDING FORCE AND A MARITIME CONTINGENCY FORCE WOULD NOUNTER THE USSR NAVAL THREAT IN THE ATLANTIC. AD COLBERT

SAID THE STANDING FORCE WAS REGARDED MORE AS A SYMBOL OF NATO UNITY AND DETERMINATION THAN AS A FIGHTING FORCE. THE CONTINGENCY FORCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD FIGHT. INCREASED SURVEILLANCE WOULD HELP TO MEET THE THREAT IN THE ATLANTIC. HE STRESSED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WITH REGARD TO THE SOVIET MERCHANT FLEET WAS THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY BIGGER BUT DIFFERENT AND COULD BE CONTROLLED AND OPERATED MORE AS A FLEET OF NAVAL AUXILIARIES.

5. THE PORTUGUESE REP ASKED IF THE AREAS WHICH THE FISHING FLEET VISITED WERE CONSISTENT WITH FISHING. AD CMLXSR said THAT SACLANT PLANNED TO CONDUCT AN EFFORT TO SEE WHETHER THE FLEET WAS BEING USED FOR MILITARY REASONS. THE ITALIAN REP ASKED WHAT WAS THE STATE OF TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS OF THE RUSSIAN FLEET. AD COLBERT SAID THIS WAS ANOTHER ASPECT BEING STUDIED. SO FAR NATO INTELLIGENCE ON THE SOVIET FLEETS HAD BEEN PIECEMEAL AND UNCOLLATED. THIS WAS WHAT SACLANT WAS ENDEAVOURING TO IMPROVE. THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE FISHING AND MERCHANT FLEETS WERE NAVAL AUXILIARIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CREWS MIGHT HAVE UNIFORMS STOWED BELOW DECKS.

6. THE UK REP ASKED HOW IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE FISHING AND MERCHANT FLEETS WOULD BE EMPLOYED IN WAR. AD COLBERT SAW

THEM BEING USED AS FLEET AUXILIARIES AND MENTIONED THAT THEY HAD LARGER AND SPECIALLY DESIGNED HATCHES THAN WERE NORMAL IN MERCHANT SHIPS.

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7. THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT:
- (A) THEM DPWG NOTED THE PRESENTATION WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION.
 - (B) NOTED THAT THE PROPOSALS ON STRATEGY HAD BEEN PASSED, IN WRITING, TO THE MC BY SACLANT AND WERE BEING CONSIDERED.
 - (C) INVITED MEMBERS OF THE DPWG TO REPORT TO THEIR AUTHORITIES SO THAT THEY COULD BE INSTRUCTED IN ADVANCE OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT WHICH MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN THE DPC.
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