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ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION

PLACE DU MARÉCHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY - PARIS (XVI^e) - TÉL. KLE. 50-20

BUREAU DU REPRÉSENTANT
DU GROUPE PERMANENT

OFFICE OF THE STANDING GROUP
REPRESENTATIVE

LOM 77/64

26 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR : Secretary, Standing Group

SUBJECT : AHMWG on Night Vision (AC/185)

Reference : AC/185-A/8

1. Subject AHMWG met from 17 through 20 February 1964. Before discussing subjects on Agenda the Group attended a demonstration at Camp de Mailly of US and Netherlands passive night vision equipment (image intensifier). The following first generation equipment were demonstrated :

U.S. : Individual Weapon Night Vision Sight
Crew Served Weapons Night Vision Sight
Night Observation Device, Medium Range

Netherlands : Night Observation Device, Medium Range, F 300/1.1.

In resuming discussion the US delegation read a prepared statement (enclosure 1) on the US position containing a proposal for future procedures of the AC/185 Group, and an offer to other nations to procure first generation equipment. The US proposal was discussed at length. Most delegates could not concur with US proposal to dissolve the present technical sub-group and establish two working groups to follow the US and Netherlands developments. The Netherlands delegate stated that it was too early to establish any group to follow the Netherlands development as the Netherlands government had not yet decided upon any further test program for the demonstrated device.

The US déléation then revised their original proposal to meet the views of the Group (enclosure 2). In conclusion the Group agreed on a report to the Armaments Committee as in enclosure 3, it will include enclosures 1 and 2 as its appendices. US delegation stated that production of first generation equipment was intended mainly for test purposes and that second generation equipment was not likely to be operational to any large extent before 1969-70.

2. Under Agenda Item III b SHAPE representative brought up the questions of common operational test exercises and night battle doctrines and to which extent any NATO guidance was to be considered necessary in this field. It was agreed that coordinated operational tests for infra-red equipment was not desirable because of the highly different organisational structure in each country and also in light of the state of development of new equipment.

The requirement for a common night battle doctrine was also discussed and it was agreed that it was not within the TOR of the AC/185 Group to deal with this question. Statements given by each national delegate on the status of night battle doctrine in their countries showed that such doctrine was not established in many countries or was still under study in others.

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3. Under Agenda Item III c it was decided to submit document AC/185-D/19 to the AC/169 Group for comments and await these comments before deciding on further action.
4. The Group approved the Report of Exercise IRIS. During discussion of the Report some delegates voiced the necessity to ask the Military Authorities for guidance as to the desired visual security ranges for active infra-red equipment. SGREP, supported by SHAPE, stated that a standardization of the visual security ranges would be difficult because the ranges would vary for most devices from a technical point of view and also because their many operational purposes would require different security ranges. It was stated that giving an answer to this problem would require operational studies. SHAPE representative also pointed out that SHAPE was less interested in equipment for which no NEMR exists.

After a detailed discussion the delegates seemed to be in agreement with a German statement expressing that there is no general and common solution for the problem of visual security ranges, neither by stating a percentage with respect to the operational range of the equipment, nor by stating an absolute value in meters. Therefore, it is up to the national authorities to decide on the different visual security ranges with respect to the different types of equipment, and, at the same time, with respect to their special employment. In conclusion, the Group decided to forward the Report to the Armaments Committee with the following remarks :

- a) Appropriate action should be taken by each country to ensure that the normes of the Stannags for interchangeability are respected.
 - b) Each country, after studying the IRIS Report, is invited to submit to NATO their views for subjects which might be appropriate for NATO coordinated action.
 - c) It is clear that the infra-red equipment will be in service for at least another 5 years. The related problem dealing with visual security of filters and weight of batteries should be the object of operational studies, and, eventually, later on, of studies by the technical sub-group.
5. Under Agenda Item V document AC/74-D/825 was discussed and agreed that as this matter now stands, further discussion on data sheets was premature (ref. LOSTAN 5522).
6. It was decided that the further activities of the Group would have to be reconsidered when the national reactions to the US proposal were clarified and after the Armaments Committee had decided whether the proposal should become a NATO project. Members of the Group agreed however that its future activities would be directed more and more towards image intensifier, rather than active infra-red equipment.
7. Next meeting of the Group was scheduled for 21-25 September 1964.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE



N. SERDAROGLU
Rear Admiral

- Enclosures : (1) US Position
(2) Modified US Proposal
(3) Report to the Armaments Committee on US Proposal for Co-operative Action on Night Vision Equipments.

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