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

PLACE DU MARÉCHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY - PARIS (XV<sup>e</sup>) - TÉL. KLE. 50-20

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BUREAU DU REPRÉSENTANT  
DU GROUPE PERMANENT

OFFICE OF THE STANDING GROUP  
REPRESENTATIVE

LOM 372/65

15th October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director, Standing Group

SUBJECT : Meeting of the Working Group on the ACE Mobile  
Force (AC/212)

References : (a) AC/212-A/10  
(b) AC/212-D/17(Annex II)  
(c) AC/212-D/18

1. AC/212 Group met on 14 Oct 65, in line with Agenda, ref (a) with a view to discuss a draft interim Report to Council.
2. Chairman recalled that, since no solution had been reached until now to the problem of financing the AMF exercises, SecGen had expressed the wish to have the matter brought back before the Council. At the last meeting, the Group had agreed to submit an interim Report, indicating to Council the results of the discussions held so far by AC/212. He invited Representatives to comment on ref (b) and (c) starting with the Military Authorities.
3. SHAPE would prefer that Para 11(a), ref (c) be deleted: they feared that if the task of the Group was linked too closely with the studies undertaken by DFWG, the solution of the financial problems would unduly be delayed.
4. Chairman recalled that the aim of this Report was too seek fresh instructions from Council and that, in this connection, the DFWG studies were a new factor. It would be illogical, he felt, to define a financial policy for the AMF in its present form, when there existed the possibility that the Defense Planning Exercise might indicate a requirement for mobile forces two or three times the size of the AMF.
5. US Rep preferred that Para 11(a) be left in the Report since it was factually correct. However, he considered that there were merits in SHAPE's position and suggested therefore to replace "in the light of" by "taking into account" in Para 15(c). He also proposed to add SUMMER EXPRESS/MARMARA EXPRESS to Para 15(b).
6. FRG Rep supported the SHAPE position but could not agree to the last US proposal and asked that the two last sentences of Para 13 (starting with "It might also.....") be deleted.  
  
He also indicated that, if SUMMER EXPRESS had to be nationally financed, his Authorities would reserve the right to reconsider their participation.
7. Chairman failed to understand why FRG was opposed to Para 11(a) which, in fact, supported the German point of view: since the trend in DFWG was now to consider the AMF not merely as a symbolic "Fire Brigade" but as an actual fighting force, this could, in his opinion, but facilitate the establishment of a permanent financial policy.

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8. Italian Rep also feared that Para 11(a) may delay the final solution. In the meantime, participating countries would have to continue to finance nationally their contingents. He requested that sentence at Para 13, starting with "In view of the short time", be also deleted or that, at least, "should" be replaced by "might".

9. Chairman, in reply, stressed again that, in his opinion the German and Italian proposals with respect to Para 13, were contrary to their interests: the deletion of the last sentences of Para 13 could be interpreted as an indication that temporary arrangements should continue indefinitely.

He therefore urged that the sentence in Para 13 regarding WINTER EXPRESS and Para 15(b) be maintained: this would save time by allowing SHAPE to submit Budget Estimates for this Exercise directly to MBC, without referring first to the AC/212 Group.

10. Canadian Rep supported German amendment to Para 13 and informed that the approval of a temporary solution, even for WINTER EXPRESS was subject to a reservation based on technical grounds (cost of the Exercise and impending elections). He also asked that the primary task of the Group i.e. devise a permanent financial policy, be stated more firmly, maybe in Para 14.

11. Chairman wondered if addition of "in principle" at Para 15(b) would meet the Canadian objection; the answer was "yes".

12. In conclusion, AC/212 agreed that ref (c) be amended broadly as follows:

(a) Para 11(a) : first sentence should read:

....., the Working Group feels that it might be useful to take into account the studies and results of the Defense Planning Exercise when reviewing its attempts.....".

(b) Para 13, after "Exercise EASTERN EXPRESS 1965" read:

"In view of the short time left, this might be immediately applicable to Exercise WINTER EXPRESS. If no agreement on a permanent solution is reached in time, the financing of SUMMER EXPRESS/MARMARA EXPRESS will have to be examined by the Group".

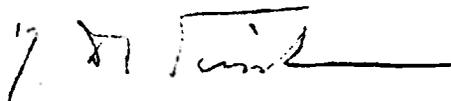
(c) Para 15(b) should read "Agree in principle that....."

(d) Para 15(c), replace "in the light of" by "taking into account".

13. In view of the number and importance of comments made, Chairman suggested and the Group agreed that a revised Draft Report should be prepared and discussed by AC/212 before it is forwarded to Council. The next meeting is scheduled for the 28 Oct 1965.

14. Standing Group comments and guidance, if any, would be appreciated.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE



J. DE VISSCHERE,  
MAJOR GENERAL, BE.A.

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