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CSGM-1-63

22 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Standing Group Representative (Personal)

SUBJECT: NATO Military Planning

Reference: LOM 7/63, 11 January 1963

1. Here attached is our personal informal comment on the draft of the Secretary General concerning NATO military planning. It has been delayed due to the absence of my U.S. colleague who came back to Washington yesterday, the 21st.

2. I would like you to tell Mr. Stikker that we will be happy to talk with him in February on this matter as well as on the subject covered by the PO/63/25.

3. Tell him too that we consider those meetings with him as a means of improving our personal contacts, and of having a more direct knowledge of his personal thoughts on important matters, and not at all as an opportunity to solve problems with the International Staff. In other words we would like very much quite private informal meetings, attended by no other person than Mr. Colonna unless someone else's presence is expressly desired by Mr. Stikker on a precise item.

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Admiral, French Navy  
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ENCLOSURE 1

1. The Standing Group welcomes any effort to keep military planning moving forward during what is likely to be an unsettled period, but at the same time we realise that this is a very difficult problem and one which does not permit of any quick or simple solution.

2. It is most desirable that any proposed procedure should represent real forward action and not just another journey over well-trodden ground. In this respect we feel that paras. 7, 8 and 9 of Mr. Stikker's paper have already been largely covered by the last Triennial Review and by the discussion on it in the December NAC Meeting. Furthermore, we feel that nothing basically can or will be changed until our grand strategy has been overhauled and either confirmed or modified.

3. Therefore, we consider that for the time being our action should be as follows:

a) Maintain the principle of forward strategy and retain MC 26/4 as the basic premise for our development of forces, with the proviso that, although these requirements represent our present goal our EDP must be related to current resources.

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- b) Postpone the next TAR one year.
- c) Keep the momentum going by:
  - (i) having intermediate reviews in 1963 and 1964, and by ensuring that these are kept as simple as possible,
  - (ii) as the essential starting point to be used for formulating the successor to MC 26/4, expedite strategic and MRBM studies,
  - (iii) arriving, if possible, at a more equitable formula than the bare percentage of GNP for comparing contributions.

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