Action Flimsy.

18 October 1960

Pages 1 - 2 Incl.

1960 Annual Review - BELGIUM

NOTE BY THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNING TEAM

References:
1. SGM 404-60
2. MCM 110-60
3. SHAPE 102/60 AG 2100/21 (Belgium) Dlt
4. CINCHAN n° Ch 001147/5 16 Sep-60

INTRODUCTION
1. Paragraph 2 of reference a lays down the procedure for handling the subject document during the 1960 Annual Review.

2. Attached are two draft memoranda for SGREP, containing:
   a. Military Comments and final recommendations
   b. Draft military portion of the country chapter and the country summary appraisal.

NON STANDING GROUP NATIONS INVOLVED
3. Belgium

FINAL MILITARY APPROVAL REQUIRED

RELATED PAPERS ALREADY RELEASED TO THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE
5. Reference b.

2 ENCLOSES:
1. Draft SGM
2. Draft SGM

IMS Control N° 10.460

SECRET

For Secretary

DOCUMENT RECLASSIFICATION MEMO. 

By. - Date. - 19 -

SECRET
CONSULTATIONS ALREADY CARRIED OUT

6. a. Within the Standing Group - None
   b. Outside the Standing Group - The Staff Officer to
   the Belgian Military Representative.

FOLLOWING MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES TO BE OFFERED STANDING GROUP
CONSULTATION

7. Belgian Military Representative

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that the Standing Group approve the
two attached draft memoranda and that distribution is made in
accordance with para. 2 a and b of reference a.

Col GIROUX
France

Lt Col BRIGHT
U.K.

Col MAUPIN
U.S.

Col von FREYTAG
Non SGN Member
MEMORANDUM FOR THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

SUBJECT: 1960 Annual Review - Military Comments and Final Military Recommendations - BELGIUM

Reference: SGM-404-60

1. In accordance with para. 2 a of reference the Standing Group forwards herewith the military comments and recommendations on Belgium.

2. The Standing Group has noted the comments of the Major NATO Commanders on Belgium and these are reproduced at Enclosure 1.

3. The final Military Recommendations of the Standing Group are at Enclosure 2.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP

2 ENCLOSURES
1. Military Comments - Belgium
2. Final List of Mil. Recommendations

DISTRIBUTION
ENCLOSURE 1

Pages 1.

MILITARY COMMENTS ON BELGIUM

(Reproduce: Appendix A - SHAPE 102/60 AG 2100/21 (Belgium)
dated 4 October 1960

Appendix B - CINCHAN n° Ch 001147/5
dated 16 September 1960)
ENCLOSEMENT 2

Pages 1 incl.

FINAL LIST OF MILITARY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Standing Group has approved the following list of
2. Military recommendations which it urges Belgium to implement in
3. order more nearly to attain the requirements of MC 70 and the
4. standards of MC 55/1. These recommendations are listed in
5. order of urgency without regard to service:
6.   a. Achieve an adequate nuclear delivery capability
7.   b. Continue to take all possible measures for the
8.       survival of BAF combat units.
9.   c. Increase the regular content of the Army
10.  d. Provide the required air defense units
11.  e. Provide adequate balanced M-Day non-organic
12.  support units in the Belgian Army
13.  f. Provide the required Corporal/Sergeant Battalion
14.  g. Overcome the shortages in the BAF in officers
15.  and technicians
16.  h. Increase the recall training of reserve Army
17.  units in accordance with ACE Forces Standards.
18.  i. Reorganize the 2nd echelon divisions upon
19.  completion of reorganization of the M-Day divisions.
20.  j. Complete Army reserve stocks of equipment and
21.  ammunition to at least the interim level of 30 days
22.  supply.
23.  k. Acquire experience and develop techniques in
24.  the field of helicopter minesweeping and minehunting.
25.  l. Build up a force of HPM's so as to meet fully
26.  ACCHAN Planning Guidance requirements.

Enclosure 2

IPT 98/277
MEMORANDUM FOR THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

1. Subject
   1960 Annual Review - Draft Military Portion
   of the Country Chapter and Country Summary
   Appraisal - BELGIUM

2. Reference
   SGM-404-60

In accordance with paragraph 2 b of reference, the Standing Group forwards herewith the draft military portion of the Country Summary Appraisal and the draft military portion of the Country Chapter at Enclosures 1 and 2 respectively.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP

11. 2 ENCLOSURES
   1. Draft Mil. Portion of Country Summary Appraisal
   2. Draft Mil. Portion of Country Chapter

14. DISTRIBUTION

NATO
SECRET

IPT 98/277
NATO SECRET

ENCLOSURE 1.

Page 1 incl.

DRAFT MILITARY PORTION OF COUNTRY SUMMARY
APPRaisal ON BELGIUM

1. The NATO Military Authorities recognize the notable contribution of Belgium to the defense of the NATO area, the efforts of the Belgian Authorities to fulfill the requirements of MC 70 and the excellent progress made by the Belgian Navy.

2. The Belgian Authorities have stated that their contribution to NATO might be subject to change in the light of recent events in the Congo. It is hoped that the Belgium will continue her efforts to provide the forces required by MC 70 and will carry out her plans to improve those forces.

3. The following significant deficiencies adversely affect Belgian defense posture:
   a. Lack of adequate nuclear capability
   b. Inadequate regular content of the Army
   c. Shortfalls in air defense units
   d. Shortage of non-organic support units in the Army.

4. During the period under review the Belgian Army and Air Force will have a moderate capability to carry out their missions whilst the Belgian Navy will have a high operational capability.

Enclosure 1.

IPT 98/277
ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING

2. Belgian M-Day divisions are being organized along the lines of the NATO standard division and will concurrently be provided with modern equipment.

3. The NATO Military Authorities agree with the reorganization of M-Day forces at the expense of other units in the Belgian Army, principally those in the second echelon. As a result, the second echelon division will, for the time being, have only two brigade groups each and no organic support units. However, there continues to be a shortage of M-Day and 1st echelon non-organic support units.

4. The plans of the Belgian Authorities to provide ground nuclear delivery units in the Army are noted with satisfaction. However, no mention has been made this year of a Corporal/Sergeant battalion although a unit of this type was forecast last year.

5. In view of the reduced term of conscript service and the reorganization of units, the reserve training of 1st and 2nd echelon units will be of considerable importance. The plan to recall for reserve training the second echelon armored brigade groups and the majority of the 1st and 2nd echelon non organic support units for only two weeks every two or three years is inadequate. The NATO Military Authorities urge the
Belgian Authorities to conduct reserve training for those units in conformity with the ACE forces standards.

PERSONNEL

6. The percentage of regular officers, NCO's and technicians will increase in the reorganized M-Day divisions. There will be, however, a reduction of about one-third in the number of volunteers estimated last year as being required. It is hoped that the regular content of the Belgian Army Forces committed to ACE will be adequate to maintain the effectiveness of these forces. With respect to the length of conscript service experience indicates that a conscript only begins to pay a dividend in term of useful service after 12 months training. It is therefore considered that 18 months service is necessary for those nations which depend on compulsory service for a significant proportion of their forces.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL

7. The modernization of signal equipment has begun. It is hoped that obsolete and worn equipment can be replaced and the shortage of ground to air UHF equipment can be overcome during the period under review.

8. The implementation of SACEUR's ECM Plan is impeded by the lack of operational and training ECM equipment.

EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS

9. Reserve stocks of equipment are up to the MC 55/1 level, except for combat vehicles, mortars and heavy artillery. Several items of ammunition reserves are below a 30-day level.

10. The NATO Military Authorities recognize the difficulties (primarily the lack of acquisition of permanent "A" SAS sites) which have been encountered in achieving an
adequate nuclear capability for Belgian Army delivery units stationed in Germany.

EFFECTIVENESS

11. The Belgian Army will have at least a moderate capability to carry out its mission during the period under review. In order to be fully capable of carrying out this mission, it is necessary to correct the following major deficiencies:

a. Inadequate regular content.

b. Shortage of non-organic combat and service support units.

c. Lack of one Corporal/Sergeant Battalion
d. Insufficient reserve training for most 1st and 2nd echelon units.
e. Shortage of one Infantry brigade group and lack of organic support units in each second echelon division.

NAVY

12. (SGREP to insert tables)

ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING

13. With the acquisition of the fifth MSO in 1960, the Belgian Naval Forces will have completed the build up of an efficient and modern force of minesweepers which will fully meet numerically the requirements of MC 70 and ACCHAN Planning Guidance.

14. It is regretted that Belgium does not find it possible to implement fully the requirements of HPM and MHC as recommended in the ACCHAN Planning Guidance. As a result, 3 MCM groups out of a total of 4 will not have their necessary helicopter minesweeping and minehunting capabilities by end 1963.
15. Training facilities are considered adequate; during NATO exercises, Belgian Naval units have shown a high degree of efficiency.

PERSONNEL

16. The plans for increasing the percentage of regulars in the Belgian Navy and the overall manning of Category "A" ships are noted.

EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS

17. The logistic position of the Belgian Navy is considered generally satisfactory. It is hoped that measures will be taken as soon as possible to overcome existing deficiencies in 20 mm ammunition and to make suitable arrangements for the supply of spare parts for minesweepers.

EFFECTIVENESS

18. The Belgian Navy will have a high operational capability during the period under review. Full operational capability, however, will be dependent upon acquisition of required HPM and MHC units.

AIR FORCE

19. (SGREP to insert tables)

ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING

20. The Belgian Air Force is urged to complete the remaining action necessary to achieve a full nuclear capability.

21. The shortage of air defense units in the BAF during the period under review is noted. The NATO Military Authorities agree with the BAF plan to give priority to modernizing the air defense squadron in view of the approaching obsolescence of the CF-100 aircraft and the overall shortage of air defense units.
22. It is considered that the planned aircrew/aircraft ratio of 1.2 to 1 should be increased to reach the MC 55/1 standard of 1.5 to 1, with priority to offensive units.

23. It is noted that flying time will be stabilized at 200 hours per pilot per year, but it is hoped that the BAF will seek to attain the MC 55/1 standard of 240 hours per pilot per year.

PERSONNEL

24. Improvements have been made in the recruiting of personnel, but efforts to increase the number of officers and technicians should continue.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL

25. The NATO Military Authorities note that telecommunications infrastructure facilities are, in general, satisfactory. The ground VHF - UHF conversion is almost completed and air VHF - UHF conversion is progressing satisfactorily. However, it is hoped that mobile communications facilities will be provided and that shortages in CE equipment will be overcome during the period under review.

26. The implementation of SACEUR's ECM Plan is impeded by the lack of operational and training equipment.

27. The efforts of the BAF to meet the prescribed criteria for C & R operations are noted with satisfaction. Further modernization of ground environment facilities should be undertaken in accordance with approved NATO plans.

EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS

28. The present logistic situation of the BAF, with a few exceptions, meets MC 55/1 standards, aircraft combat readiness rates now meet generally MC 55/1 standards.
29. Excellent progress has been made in improving airfields and constructing dispersed off-base facilities. With regard to the BAF NIKE units, the NATO Military Authorities are aware of the difficulties which have been encountered in achieving a nuclear capability. The Belgian Authorities are urged to continue to press for the completion of permanent NIKE sites and their associated type "F" SAS sites.

30. BAF plans to disperse its squadrons only in time of war are noted. Belgium should continue to take all possible measures for the survival of its units in the event of a surprise attack.

EFFECTIVENESS

31. The Belgian Air Force will have a moderate capability to perform its mission during the period under review. The BAF cannot be considered fully capable until the following major deficiencies are corrected:
   a. Inadequate nuclear delivery capability.
   b. Inadequate measures for the survival of units
   c. Shortfall in air defense units
   d. Shortages in officers and technicians.

MILITARY RECOMMENDATIONS

32. The NATO Military Authorities' Recommendations, in the light of the foregoing considerations, are at Enclosure 2 to SGM-60.