28 August 1958

TO THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNING TEAM
(Cdr Gruson, Cdr Weir, Capt Sommer, Cdr Bruti-Liberati)

SUBJECT: Allied Naval Control of Shipping
Manual (ATP-2)

Reference: SGM-520-58

At Enclosure, for your information, is a letter received from the United States Chief of Naval Operations, Ser 0491P34, dated 26 August 1958, indicating the United States views on the above subject.

JBO/bbm

J. B. OLDFIELD
Colonel, British Army
Acting Deputy Secretary

DISTRIBUTION: A B2,6,8 F11 L6
From: Chief of Naval Operations  
To: Standing Group, North Atlantic Military Committee  
Subj: Status of Allied Naval Control of Shipping Manual (ATP 2) (II)  
Ref: (a) SGM-520-58 dated 12 Aug 1958  

1. The Secretary of Defense has referred reference (a) to the Chief of Naval Operations authorizing a direct reply to the Standing Group. Reference (a) requests the view of the United States, as an original sponsor of ATP 2, on the following subjects:

   a. The present status of ATP 2 with respect to its control.
   b. The desirability of Military Agency for Standardization Naval Board control of ATP 2.
   c. Modifications of ATP 2 which might make Military Agency for Standardization Naval Board control of the publication acceptable.

2. The United States view with regard to the subjects listed above are as follows:

   a. The control of ATP 2 as treated by the United States is governed by agreements existing between the sponsoring nations, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. The manual is the result of a tripartite project which was offered by the sponsors to NATO for use without amendment in 1952. One sponsor, the United States, has acted as custodian of ATP 2. All proposed amendments or additions to ATP 2 received by the custodian have been reviewed by the sponsoring nations. Each change to ATP 2 has consisted of the material from these tripartite reviews to which no sponsoring nation objected.

   b. The United States is opposed to control of ATP 2 by the Naval Board, Military Agency for Standardization. The shift of control from the existing system, in which the participants have recognized world wide responsibilities, to an Agency with authority and interest in a specific geographic area will seriously limit the usefulness of ATP 2 both for the United States and, presumably, for other NATO nations with shipping control interests outside NATO.
c. Before Naval Board, Military Agency for Standardization, control of ATT 2 would be acceptable to the United States a major revision would be necessary: Namely, to change the character of the publication from one with world wide application to one with application only in the specific geographic area under cognizance of the Military Agency for Standardization. Thus a change in the character of the publication would not be to the advantage of either the sponsoring nations or other NATO nations with world-wide shipping interests.

Copy to:
Director of Tactical and Staff Duties and Standardization, Admiralty
London, S. W. 1, England
Director of Naval Standardization
Naval Staff, Naval Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
British Joint Services Mission, Washington
Naval Member, Canadian Joint Staff, Washington
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For release as indicated

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Enclosure