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BUREAU DE LIAISON
DU GROUPE PERMANENT

Per Authority INSM-431-99

STANDING GROUP
LIAISON OFFICE

LOM 27/55

By C. REUSEN..... Date ..21..12..99..

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NATO SECRET

PALAIS DE CHAILLOT
PARIS (XVI)

26th April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary, Standing Group NATO, Washington DC

FOR INFORMATION SHAPE

SUBJECT : .50 calibre NG ammunition deficiencies in NATO Europe

1. The following information on the above subject has been transmitted to the SGLD by the Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Production and Logistics:

"The very serious deficiencies and lack of sufficient production capacity for this item of ammunition was highlighted in both the 1953 and 1954 Annual Review Reports endorsed by the Council

Furthermore, answering a question raised by the P & L Division in April 1953, the SGLD at that time stated that, far from becoming obsolescent, this round was considered of major military value.

In view of the above, the P & L Division decided at the beginning of this year to initiate a study among NATO countries to determine practical means to alleviate this critical situation and, in document PL/LPW(55)6 of 10th January 1955, Delegations were asked to state whether they were in favour of a direct exchange of views on this subject with a view to realising the most economical utilisation of the production sources and of the funds available.

Answers so far received from countries have been, on the whole, disappointing and in particular the U.S. Delegation has expressed the opinion that if further funds become available in Europe for procurement of ammunition these should be devoted to artillery items rather than to .50 calibre MG ammunition."

2. Before deciding on any further action in the matter the P & L Division has requested a statement from the NATO Military Authorities as to whether the opinion expressed in 1953 still holds good, or whether there has been any significant change in the military authorities thinking on the subject.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP LIAISON OFFICER

Colin W. McMullen

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Commodore

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