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MESSAGE

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FROM: SGLO PARIS FRANCE

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

TO: SGN WASH DC

By *de M.S.* Date *15 FEB 2000*

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NR: LOSTAN 1499

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Subject is follow-up action on defense ministers conference. Abbreviated text of international staff paper referred to in LOSTAN 1489 is quoted below. SGLO complied with para 3 of STAND 1346 to extent possible during drafting. Comments on draft paper will follow later. Begin text: Note by secretary general, NATO defense planning. In Annex international staff suggest outline of procedure for adapting defense planning which it is hoped may meet points made in course of recent council discussions. Procedure outlined has not rpt not been formally discussed with military authorities, but it is designed to take into account the provisional views expressed by SGN. It reflects what seems to be general opinion that while existing procedures should in some respects be adjusted to meet current problems, no rpt no good purpose would be served by attempting to set up new organization. If procedures such as those described in annex are acceptable, a resolution on NATO defense planning might be prepared with object of asking council to endorse these general principles at forthcoming ministerial meeting. Subsequently the council in permanent session might consider what should be form and timetable of 1956 annual review in light of resolution. If council reach agreement on procedures described in annex, as soon as possible thereafter list should be prepared of *var* subjects for discussion in exchange of views proposed as first stage of new procedure. Annex-NATO defense planning-international staff proposals introduction.

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1. Governments do not rpt not consider practicable substantial increases in current level expenditures. There is widespread feeling will become increasingly difficult sustain popular support for expenditures now planned unless governments can explain more clearly why money needed. They must be able show it being spent efficiently economically.

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2. Governments concerned by 2 elements, which have recently become evident. First while it not rpt not for some time possible to make overall estimate of costs involved in carrying out measures necessary implement MC 48 and 48/1, is clear considerable expenditure needed achieve basic objectives. Second that measures which each country be called on to take under new look have not rpt not been fully defined.

3. There can be no rpt no finality in solutions. Processes developing NATO strategy and remodelling national contributions to accord with strategy are evolving. Nevertheless seems point reached when would be in common interest to attempt more detailed appraisal implications new look than hitherto possible. Proposed procedure.

4. As first stage representatives from appropriate NATO and national military authorities would, together with international and national civilian representatives, meet exchange views on steps requires provide effective pattern forces. In these inquiries emphasis might initially be on studying what should be done meet conditions assumed for first phase nuclear war. In this context would be possible study specific problems which governments consider of general importance. There are problems common to armies navies and airforces; for example, provision of forces in being and instantly available, and an effective early warning system. Other problems might be studied by service.

5. Proposed first stage would provide multilateral exchange views prior issue commander's guidance. Suggested for reasons geographical convenience, these discussions should far as possible take place in Paris under auspices of SGN. Attendance would vary according subject. Civilian representatives from member countries and from International Staff would take part not rpt not with idea of limiting scope to accord with any particular level of expenditures but to give the cost preliminary indication of general problems likely to face governments. Furthermore civilian representatives should be able obtain information which would enable them assist in second stage.

6. Proposed second stage would involve series separate discussions between national representatives NATO military authorities together with International Staff. Proposed such discussions should broadly follow lines suggested by SGN in STAND 1329. National representatives should include both military and civilian authorities concerned with defense planning so that there can be comprehensive review country's defense programme as whole. Circumstances vary and it probably

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not rpt not possible in any 1 year cover all aspects 1 country's national defense planning. Nevertheless discussions should assist governments the NATO military authorities and International Staff to estimate at least in general terms cost of implementing measures which essential. At same time assess what would have to be modified, or given up in order to implement these measures within certain limits time and expenditure. Thus it should be possible arrive at realistic recommendations for adjustment current programmes.

7. It seems that there would be advance in conducting these discussions so far as possible in Paris. The staff available to NATO military authorities is limited in size and it would not rpt not be practicable for senior representatives to spend time necessary for full discussions in each country.

8. Results of discussions would be for multilateral examination in annual review. Extent to which proposals described would call for modifications in procedures of annual review for 1956 has not rpt not been fully analysed. However International Staff foresee no rpt no insuperable difficulties on this account and propose form and timetable for next annual review should be studied further in light of decisions taken on procedures now proposed. End text.

2. Above paper will receive council consideration on Wednesday 30 November.

NOTE: 1489 is DA IN 182757 (23 Nov 55) SGN
1346 is DEF 992568 (23 Nov 55) SGN

ACTION: SGN

DA IN 183199

(26 Nov 55)

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