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MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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FROM: SGLO PARIS FRANCE

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TO: SGN WASH DC

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

NR: LOSTAN 1512

By *de Nys*... Date *15 Feb 2000*
301750Z NOV 55

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IMS Control N° 0014

Subject is Follow-up Action.

Further to LOSTAN 1509 item summarize sense of council discussion today 30 November on above subject.

2. Belgian Netherlands and Italian delegations, supported by Germans, voiced opinion that multilateral opening phase of 1956 advocated in CM (55) 113 was only real point of difference with military proposals and thinking. In support of this multilateral opening they stated they were faced with problem of adjusting national programs to meet new look. They hoped that NATO military authorities would give them preliminary indications how best to do so from military point of view in a multilateral exchange of views where matters could be discussed with their NATO colleagues as well as military authorities. They simply asked for multilateral enlightenment with regard to a number of troublesome problems which could be specifically listed in advance. This was not rpt not the "over-all review" mentioned by Standing Group. In their minds if military planning could include this essential multilateral phase, major differences with the military views would be eliminated. They further inferred that with the multilateral innovation the other procedure proposed by the military would then, they considered, be workable and adequate. No rpt no dissent by delegations followed these expressions of views.

3. Deputy Sec Gen in Sec Gen's temporary absence strongly supported Dutch/Belgian/Italian/German thesis. He quoted opening sentence of general chapter, 1955 annual review report as follows: "The time has come to give a new direction to the defence planning of the alliance". He cited the plainly expressed desire of Defence Ministers for general military information they needed to support NATO programs in their respective national capitals. His idea was that the purpose of the proposed multilateral stage was to answer the

DA 1. 184346

(1 Dec 55)

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above two points. Even if complete answers are not rpt not available, this information would be valuable and would enable national authorities to acquaint their colleagues in ministries, their parliament and their public opinion with actual status of affairs. Some delegations, notably Canada and Denmark, had some doubts about multilateral phase. Some, notably US Greek and Danish, were without instructions and desired more time. Deputy Sec Gen asked if council consensus was broadly favorable to document CM (55) 113. The answer was affirmative. He then recommended that SGLO be invited to transmit sense of discussion to SGN. Council approved. He then asked council authority for international staff to proceed with best possible advice from NATO military authorities, either through SGLO or through SGN planners as suggested by UK representative, to produce draft resolution covering this over-all problem for preliminary permanent council approval and ultimate ministerial consideration. Council indicated that international staff should proceed with this work taking into account best military advice available. International staff in preparation will ask delegations for lists of specific items recommended for treatment in any multilateral exchange of views which might start off the 1956 NATO year.

4. In my opinion if the SGN can accept the idea of multilateral exchange of views as discussed above early in 1956 and in Paris, which would take under consideration a specific list of problems to be indicated, and accept the idea that this exchange would be under the aegis of SGN, I think the way would be clear to proceed in participation on draft resolution which would satisfy majority of council desires and at same time not rpt not prejudice military views. I would appreciate your informal guidance soonest.

NOTE: 1509 is DA IN 184308 (1 Dec 55) SGN

ACTION: SGN

DA IN 184346

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