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REPORT BY THE WORKING TEAMS

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to the REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED  
STANDING GROUP Per Authority IMS-130-96  
on By LATNY Date 06 Jan 58

PROPOSAL BY THE ITALIAN DELEGATE TO DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO AMEND THE  
DIRECTIVE FROM THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE  
(M.C. 1, PAR. 18, PAGE 8)

THE PROBLEM

1. To recommend Standing Group action on the Italian proposal as set forth in M.C. 1, paragraph 18, page 8.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. D.C. 1/2 (Directive to the Military Committee) states as follows:

"18. Intra-Regional Defense Coordination

It is recognized that there are problems which are clearly common to the defense of the different areas covered by the regional planning groups. Any combination of these Groups may meet together from time to time to insure full coordination and cooperation. In particular, arrangements should be made to provide such meetings among the European Groups."

3. At the meeting of the Defense Committee on 5 October, the Italian delegate proposed to amend paragraph 18 of the Defense Committee Directive to the Military Committee as indicated below:

"It is recognized that there are problems which are clearly common to the defense of the different areas covered by the regional planning groups. Any combination of these groups may meet together from time to time to insure full coordination and cooperation, and particular arrangements should be made to provide such combined meetings among the European

Groups when requested by any two or more members and to establish permanent liaison between the European Groups."

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4. The proposed amendment was referred by the Defense Committee to the Military Committee with instructions that the Military Committee would report back to the Defense Committee at its next meeting (Minutes of the first meeting of the Defense Committee, page 61).

5. The Military Committee at its meeting of 6 October referred the Italian proposal to the Standing Group "to work up a proposed solution" (Minutes of the first meeting of the Military Committee).

6. The Italian delegate to the Military Committee concurred in referring the proposal to the Standing Group with the provision that "in any discussion which may take place in the Standing Group, a representative of the Italian General Staff be included". This suggestion was assented to by General Lecheres (Minutes of the first meeting of the Military Committee, pages 22 to 24).

7. The Standing Group deferred consideration until the permanent location of the Southern European-Western Mediterranean Group is settled. The above Group met on 5 and 7 November in Paris.

#### DISCUSSION

8. As presented by the Italian delegate, there are two points of issue for discussion and resolution: That particular arrangements should be made (a) to provide combined meetings among European Regional Groups when requested by any two or more members and, (b) to establish permanent liaison between the European Groups.

9. Referring to D.C. 1/2 (Directive to the Military Committee), Section V, paragraph 15 b states:

"b. The question of which Parties should be members of which particular groups depends on geographical, political and military considerations. While some parties are not

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only directly interested in but in a position to contribute to the defense of the whole North Atlantic Area, the contribution which others can make must be restricted to the regions in which they are physically situated. In view of the difficulty of evaluating the political and military considerations involved, the membership of the different Regional Planning Groups shall be established on a geographical basis. At the same time, it is agreed that:

(1) before any Regional Planning Group makes any recommendations affecting the defense of the territory or involving the use of forces, facilities, or resources of any Party not a member of the Group, that Party shall have the right to participate in the Group in the work of formulating such recommendations;

(2) any Group which considers that a Party not a member of the Group can contribute to the defense planning of that Group's region, can call upon that Party to join in the planning as appropriate."

10. In view of the agreed provisions above in which Nations not members of a particular Group have the right to participate in discussions affecting their own territory or the use of their own forces, it is felt undesirable that rigid rules should be laid down by the Military Committee regarding the way in which this participation already agreed upon in principle should be effected.

11. Even if it was thought necessary to adopt in principle the Italian proposal, the instructions issued would have to allow some freedom of action on the part of the Regional Groups. The Italian proposal would commit Regional Groups to an automatic assembly purely at the request of any two Nations without any regard to the convenience of the other Nations. Any instructions to cover such eventualities would involve the Military Committee in matters of detail which are properly the responsibilities of the Regional Groups.

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12. We consider, therefore, that present directives provide sufficient instructions to Regional Groups to ensure the necessary coordination and cooperation, and that further direction from the Military Committee to meet the Italian proposal would be undesirable.

13. As regards the Italian proposal to establish permanent liaison between Regional Groups, the terms of reference of the Regional Groups state:

"b Cooperate with the other Regional Planning Groups with a view to eliminating conflict in, and insuring harmony among, the various regional plans."

14. Although the term "liaison" is not specifically mentioned, we consider that the sense of this term of reference is to ensure that normal military liaison exists between Regional Groups. The method of establishing such liaison is a matter for Regional Groups themselves to resolve and we consider it would be undesirable for rigid directions to be issued by the Military Committee to put this into effect.

CONCLUSIONS

15. Existent Directives from the Defense Committee and Military Committee contain sufficient provisions for coordination, cooperation, and liaison between Regional Groups.

16. The Standing Group should therefore report to the Military Committee that detailed directions to Regional Groups, as desired by the Italian representative, are considered neither desirable nor necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. That the Standing Group approve the conclusions and so inform the Accredited Italian Military Representative.

18. That the Standing Group recommend to the Military Committee in accordance with the above conclusions.

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