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REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNING TEAM

to the
STANDING GROUP
on

ITALIAN AIR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS

- References:
- a. M.C. 26/1 Final
 - b. TOSHAP 124
 - c. SH 22075
 - d. SGM-68-52
 - e. SGM-147-52
 - f. SGM-153-52

THE PROBLEM

1. To study and make recommendations as to Italian Air Defense Requirements in the Medium Term Defense Plan.

BACKGROUND

2. During the Rome Conference, the Italian Chiefs of Staff requested that the requirements for the home defense of Italy, as stated in M.C. 26/1 should be reconsidered. In view of this the Standing Group requested SACEUR's recommendation (reference b) and this has been submitted (reference c). Since SACEUR had not discussed the matter with the Italian Chiefs of Staff before replying, clarification of the views of the Italian Chiefs of Staff was requested and these have been submitted to the Standing Group (references e and f).

DISCUSSION

Views of SACEUR

3. SACEUR's views are that the Air Force requirements for Southern Europe in M.C. 26/1 include the minimum essential for the air defense of Italy in view of the estimated Soviet air threat and intentions in 1954. Furthermore, it was understood from plans passed to SACEUR by the EMMO Regional Planning Group that the total

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of 480 day and all-weather fighters was considered acceptable by the Italian Air Staff for the air defense of Italy including the tactical area at that time.

4. As regards organization, SACEUR's views were that the whole of the Air Forces of Italy should be controlled operationally by one Allied air commander and that although Italy's right to have national defense forces was not in question, the establishment of a separate independent Italian Air Defense Command outside his control would result in loss of efficiency and increase Allied over-all air requirements and Italian defense costs. SACEUR, therefore, recommended that the operational control of both the tactical Air Force and the Italian Home Defense Air Forces be vested in the Commander, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, who would be responsible for their co-ordination and operational relationship with adjacent air defense commands.

Views of the Italian Chiefs of Staff

5. The Italian Chiefs of Staff consider that the air defense of Italy should be dealt with on the basis that separate home and tactical air defense commands should be established. They also feel that the assessed requirement for the air defense of Italian territory, as given in M.C. 26/1, and allocated to the Commander in Chief South, is inadequate. They consider that the original EMMO regional plans were not definite and the figures only tentative. They state that the necessity for home defense air forces has been recognized for other countries and that Italy, all of whose territory is subject to an air threat, should be treated in the same way.

Present Status of Planning for Italian Air Defense

6. M.C. 26/1 states a requirement of 497 day and night fighters for Southern Europe. However, neither in M.C. 26/1 nor in such tentative plans as have been made to implement the strategy on which the requirement is based is there any detailed analysis of

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how the force would be divided up between the forward and rear areas of Italy and other territories in Southern Europe.

7. No allowance has been made in M.C. 26/1 or plans based upon it for the air requirements of Greece, Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean. It is considered likely that the air defense of these areas may affect the requirements or organization for air defense of Italy.

8. A national Air Defense Command already exists in Italy but it possesses very few aircraft and no allocation of aircraft has been made specifically for it in M.C. 26/1 or other plans.

9. The Italian Chiefs of Staff have made no specific proposals as to size of force or the organization they think is necessary. The Standing Group knows of no discussions on the subject between SACEUR and CINCSOUTH and the Italian Chiefs of Staff since the Rome Conference.

CONCLUSIONS

10. It is concluded that:

a. More detailed consideration of Italian Defense requirements is necessary before the Standing Group can make recommendations on the subject to the Military Committee.

b. As a first step SACEUR should arrange for direct discussions on the problem with CINCSOUTH and the Italian Chiefs of Staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. It is recommended that:

a. The Standing Group should dispatch the message at Enclosure.

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b. Since it is unlikely that the discussions between CINCOSOUTH and the Italian Chiefs of Staff can be completed before the Lisbon Meeting, the Italian Air Defense Requirements should be deleted from the Agenda and a report on it made to the Military Committee only on the Progress Report.

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Secretaries

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ENCLOSURE

DRAFT SIGNAL TO SACEUR AND MOD, ROME

From: Standing Group
To: SACEUR, MOD, Rome
Subject: Italian Air Defense Requirements

With reference to SH 22075, Italian Chiefs of Staff have asked for reconsideration of Italian Air Defense Requirements both as to size of force and to organization. Request that SACEUR and M. O. D. Rome arrange for discussions on this matter between Chiefs of Staff Italy and CINCSOUTH. Report on discussions, indicating agreement reached should be dispatched to Standing Group.

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Enclosure

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