

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

REGRADED NATO UNCLASSIFIED

SGM-1647-51

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

10 October 1951

By JACOBRE Date 11-10-99

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Dissolution of the Hydrographic Information Committee (HIC)

Reference: SGM-1305-51

The following Memorandum, for your consideration, has been received from the Hydrographic Information Committee:

"1. The Hydrographic Information Committee held a meeting on the 7th of September 1951 and, in accordance with the provisions of SGM-1305-51, considered what action should be taken in connection with the study of the following problems within its terms of reference and which have not yet been resolved.

"2. Control of Radio Transmitters as Navigational Aids
(SGM-367-51 Refers)

The Hydrographic Information Committee considers that no further action is required on its part for this problem, which has already been taken over by the CECS and is entirely within the terms of reference of that section.

"3. "Q Messages" (SGM-1247-51 Refers)

The British "Q Message" publication CB 1618L/46 (originally submitted to the HIC by the U.K. Representative) is now under discussion by the UK/US Naval Authorities in order to produce an agreed combined Publication. It is expected that this publication will receive the agreement of French Naval authorities and will be ready within two months. It is the intention that this publication shall be submitted to the Standing Group for their approval with a view to its NATO-wide promulgation under the same provision as for ACPs.

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"4. Provision of Charts to NATO Countries (SGM-1247-51 Refers)

A report on that problem to the Standing Group is now being prepared by the Hydrographic Information Committee.

"5. General Specifications for Approach, Bombardment, Landing and Air Support Charts for use in Amphibious Operations

The Hydrographic Information Committee considers that the above matter lies within the attribution of the MSA. A draft transmittal of that problem to the MSA is being prepared by the HIC.

"6. Future of Hydrographic Studies (SGM-1245-51 Refers)

A report to the Standing Group on the above problem is being prepared by the Hydrographic Information Committee in consultation with the SPCC. Annexed to that report will be a list of hydrographic studies which have been undertaken by the HIC.

"7. Dissolution of the HIC (SGM-1305-51 Refers)

a. Taking into consideration the present status of the above recalled problems, which have not yet been solved, the HIC recommends that their own dissolution should not be achieved until the following steps are taken:

(1) Completion of the preparation of the "Q Message" publication (see para. 3 above) and its submission through the HIC to the Standing Group.

(2) Submission of a report by the HIC to the Standing Group on the provision of charts to NATO countries, and subsequent recommendations by the Standing Group to Member Nations (See Par. 4 above).

(3) Assignment for action by the MSA of the study of general specifications for approach, bombardment, landing and air support charts for use in amphibious operations (See par. 5 above).

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(4) Dispatch to the MSA of a Standing Group guidance on the future of hydrographic studies (See par 6 above).

b. The HIC considers that a period of about two months should be enough to allow for the settling of those questions, and for the dissolution of the Committee.

They feel it is likely that after the HIC is dissolved, new hydrographic problems will continue to be submitted to the Standing Group; according to their nature, these problems will require:

- either being studied by an IPT (routine problems),
- or being forwarded to the MSA,
- or being studied by an Ad Hoc Committee, appointed by the Standing Group as required, and including qualified representatives from Hydrographic Services of Standing Group nations.

"8. It has been brought to the attention of the Hydrographic Information Committee that hydrographic charting frequently involves coordination with military mapping and aeronautical charting activities particularly for joint army, navy and air warfare.

It is believed that the best interests of the unified commands and regional commanders could best be served by the establishment within the Standing Group in Washington, D.C., of a committee responsible for all mapping and charting activities.

If the establishment of such a committee is considered proper, then the handling of some of the future hydrographic matters as suggested in paragraph 7b could be accomplished by this mapping and charting committee.

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"9. In view of the detachment of Captain M. Amman, French Navy, LCDR P.J.E. Grandjean, French Navy, has been assigned to the HIC as French representative. It was agreed that CDR G. F. Kennedy, U.S. Navy, would act as Chairman of the Committee."



P. L. DE MONTJAMONT
Secretary

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