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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE  
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

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SGM-2082-51

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

14 December 1951

By JACOUE Date 12-10-51

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES

SUBJECT: Coordination of European Transport

Reference: SGM-1934-51

1. SGM-1934-51 refers to WQ(51)12 (Final) which is a study made by the Western European Regional Planning Group of the provision of sufficient railway wagons (rail cars) for heavy loads to meet military requirements of forces allocated to SACEUR in case of emergency. The main conclusions of this study are incorporated in SGM-1934-51. Nevertheless, it is thought that a resume of the study may be of assistance to the Council Deputies in their present consideration of methods to coordinate European transport, as it illustrates the need, not only for an over-all international organization for coordinating European transport, but also for certain subordinate agencies charged with the examination of specific and technical transport matters, the establishment of which was recommended in paragraph 4 a of SGM-1934-51.

2. A summary of WQ(51)12 (Final) is therefore forwarded at Enclosure.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

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ENCLOSURE

SUMMARY OF WQ(51)12 (FINAL)

"STUDY OF HEAVY TANK TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN WESTERN EUROPE"

1. Based on the situation of the forces stationed in Continental Europe on 1 April 1951, the study reveals that:
  - a. The available special railway wagons in Western Europe (including Western Federated Germany) are limited, and as the Allied forces stationed in Europe increase, resources of such wagons may not meet requirements. Their use, therefore, requires strict control and conservation.
  - b. The geographical distribution of these wagons does not meet initial war requirements by areas.
  - c. Although immediate construction of new wagons does not appear to be necessary, further technical studies might require the construction of special heavy types of wagons.
  - d. No international organization for the coordination of European rail transport in time of war exists.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The report, therefore, proposes:
  - a. A central European pool of heavy wagons be formed, so as to prevent the wagons suitable for the transport of special equipment being used for the transport of equipment not requiring special railway wagons in time of war.

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b. Measures be adopted to prevent movement of wagons to points behind the Iron Curtain.

c. Wagons be stationed in peacetime in areas secure from capture at the start of hostilities, and that their peacetime use be arranged so as to return them to their respective stations after each employment.

d. A special reserve pool of wagons be kept in a safe area out of enemy reach.

e. An international technical agency of a permanent nature be established at an early date. This agency to be responsible to the Inter-Allied European Transport Coordination Organization, and to be charged with:

(1) Setting up the regulations under which the pool of heavy wagons will be operated and for adjusting the resources to the requirements.

(2) The control of the pool; the administration remaining a national responsibility.

(3) Studying the rail traffic problems relating to all special military equipment in Europe.

(4) All technical studies aimed at facilitating heavy rail transport.

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