

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

REGRADED NATO UNCLASSIFIED

SGM-541-52

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

13 March 1952

By JACOARE. Date 14-10-52

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Use of Unauthorized Code Words by SHAPE

1. In September 1951 the Secretariat, anticipating a need on the part of the NATO commands for code words, took the necessary steps to assemble a block of such code words and to coordinate with the French, United Kingdom and United States military departments as to the availability and suitability of the words which had been chosen. With some amendments the list was finally approved, and a standing operating procedure was adopted and transmitted to all NATO commands under SGM-1499-51 dated 13 September 1951. It has been ascertained that ten copies of this were transmitted to SHAPE on or about that date.

2. The Secretariat has recently learned (through the U. S. Air Force) that SHAPE has assembled a list of between 100 and 200 code words from unknown sources, none of which have been approved by the Standing Group.

3. Examination of the SHAPE list indicates that some of the words have actually been discarded by previous users, and it is possible that some of these words may actually be contained in lists of code words currently belonging to other governments. The Secretariat considers this departure from procedure, which has been laid down by the Standing Group, as dangerous and recommends that the enclosed draft memorandum be dispatched to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

2/11/52

IMS Control N° 0598

C. H. DONNELLY Senior Secretary

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ENCLOSURE

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE

SUBJECT: Combined Emergency Defense Plan - Code Words  
in connection with

References: a. COS/PLA/A.16/43, 15 Feb 52  
b. SGM-1499-51

1. Reference a contains a list of code words which are intended by SHAPE for use and application covering various phases of operations under the Combined Emergency Defense Plan. The Standing Group is not informed as to the source from which these words were obtained.

2. In SGM-1499-51, dated 13 September 1951 (the SOP covering the use of code words in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization), it is provided, in paragraph 3, that:

" . . . The Secretariat, Standing Group, Washington, D. C., is responsible for the allocation of code words or blocks of code words, from a list maintained by the Secretariat, to Commands and Agencies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"b. Commands and Agencies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will request from the Secretariat, Standing Group, such allocations of code words as they require. . . ."

The purpose of this procedure is to coordinate with other NATO countries to insure that confusion does not arise from duplicate use of code words or from use of code words which have been previously used and discarded for one reason or another (e.g., because of compromise).

3. No restriction has been placed as to the number of code words which may be requested from the Standing Group for use by the commands.

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4. It is requested that the Standing Group be informed as to the reason for departure from the prescribed regulations governing code words in this instance.

5. Since examination of the SHAPE list indicates the presence of some words which have been previously used and discarded and also others currently in use by other military agencies, it is requested that the list of code words contained in reference a be cancelled and that the Standing Group be informed of SHAPE's requirements for code words in lieu of those to be cancelled.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

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