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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

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SGM-2506-52

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

10 November 1952

By IACOARE Date 2-11-99

MEMORANDUM FOR:

All Member Nations  
The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic  
Allied Commander-in-Chief Channel  
Channel Committee  
The Supreme Allied Commander Europe

SUBJECT:

VHF Equipment for Merchant Ships

1. On 7 November 1952 the Standing Group approved a report by the Communications-Electronics Coordination Section which concluded that:

a. The supply and installation of VHF equipment for merchant ships is basically a national responsibility.

b. Nations should assemble VHF sets operating in the 115-156 Mc band at their convoy assembly ports where they will be ready for immediate temporary installation on board selected merchant ships of a convoy on the outbreak of war.

c. Additional equipment, if required, should be obtained from other member nations which have excess stocks in order to preclude delay in the implementation of this urgent short-term need. This supply by loan or purchase and arrangements for the installation of VHF equipment should be effected by bilateral agreements.

d. In order to ascertain the amount of equipment available, member nations should be asked to report the quantity of VHF equipments operating in the 115-156 Mc band that can be assembled, together with the following details of the equipments concerned:

- (1) Name
- (2) Frequency range
- (3) Number of channels
- (4) Power supplies required
- (5) Type of antenna

Sets supplied should be complete installations (including antennae, connectors, control boxes, etc.) and should be so packaged as to be capable of quick temporary installation

e. A long term plan for this means of communications should be formulated at an early date.

IMS Control No. 0282

DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION MEMO. #247-23 Na/60

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f. If a long-term plan has not been agreed at the outset of an emergency or at the outbreak of war, immediate consideration should be given by each nation to obtaining sufficient VHF equipment, if necessary from commercial sources, for use in all its merchant ships liable to proceed in convoy.

g. The policy outlined above should be reviewed in two years' time.

h. Frequencies to be employed for merchant ship VHF communications will be formalized and published in ACP 177.

2. It is requested that member nations signify their approval to these conclusions and forward to the Standing Group the information in subparagraph 1d above.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:



E. B. W. CARDIFF  
Colonel, British Army  
Deputy Secretary

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