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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

REGRADED NATO UNCLASSIFIED

SGM-2542-52

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

15 November 1952

By ~~JACOB~~ Date 3-11-99

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STANDING GROUP

SUBJECT: Organization of Allied Naval Forces in the Mediterranean

1. When the Standing Group met with SACEUR at SHAPE on 29 October, General Ridgway produced an outline of proposed action for interim organization of naval forces of the Southern European Command. On advice from the Standing Group, he agreed to withhold action for the time being.

2. In the light of the scheduled meeting of Standing Group principals on 19 - 20 November, General Ridgway now submits his proposals formally for Standing Group consideration. These proposals are enclosed.

*C. H. Donnelly*  
C. H. DONNELLY  
Secretary

381/MER-6

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DECLASSIFIED-PUBLIC DISCLOSURE IMSM-0431-99 DECLASSIFIE-MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

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ENCLOSURE

ALLIED POWERS EUROPE

SUPREME COMMANDER

Nov 10, 1952

SUBJECT: Organization of Allied Naval Forces in the Mediterranean

TO: Chairman, Standing Group  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D.C.

1. It is my understanding that the naval conference to which you referred during your recent visit here is now likely to take place in Washington on the 20th of this month, and that an endeavor will be made at this meeting to resolve, inter alia, the outstanding problems of organization in the Mediterranean.

2. As you are aware, both my predecessor and I have stressed on a number of occasions that any clear cut naval organization which is agreed by the interested national authorities will be acceptable. In view of the political implications, however, it may not prove possible at this time to achieve a clear cut resolution of this problem. In consequence, I wish to place before you formally those interim proposals which I discussed with you during your visit to SHAPE (attached at Appendix).

3. In submitting these proposals, I recognize that they provide only a partial solution or a solution of an interim character to the overall naval organizational problem in the Mediterranean. If agreement cannot be reached now on the overall organization, I can no longer delay in initiating action which will permit me to proceed with the urgent task of developing plans and arrangements for the allied naval forces assigned to me, in cooperation with those other naval forces which will operate within the Mediterranean.

4. If, therefore, the forthcoming discussions are not able to completely resolve the present outstanding differences, and in view of the vital part which naval forces must play in the defense of Southern Europe, I request that every effort be made to achieve acceptance of my proposals as an interim naval organization within my Southern Command.

s/ M. B. Ridgway

M. B. RIDGWAY  
General, United States Army

1 Encl - Outline of Action Proposed by SACEUR for Int. Organ. of Naval Forces of S. European Command.

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Enclosure

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## APPENDIX

### OUTLINE OF ACTION PROPOSED BY SACEUR FOR INTERIM ORGANIZATION OF NAVAL FORCES OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN COMMAND

#### Augmentation of COMNAVSOUTH Staff and Facilities

1. Initiate arrangements for the appointment of a Deputy COMNAVSOUTH, to be a Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy.

2. Institute buildup for the headquarters and staff of COMNAVSOUTH. Proposed table of organization has been approved and submitted, and requisitions for required additional personnel are ready for submission. The temporary headquarters facilities are now available and adequate for the enlarged organization.

#### Arrangements Leading to Assignment of Greek and Turkish Naval Forces

3. The appropriate Turkish and Greek national authorities will be requested to commit suitable naval forces in their war plans for assignment to CINCSOUTH (COMNAVSOUTH). This will permit war planning for operations in support and supply of the land and air forces of those countries to proceed in an orderly manner.

#### Extension of CINCSOUTH's Area of Maritime Responsibility to Correspond With Enlarged Theater

4. It is proposed to extend, for planning purposes, CINCSOUTH's area of maritime responsibility to include the sea areas adjacent to Greece and Turkey as well as the sea lines of communication to those countries to permit CINCSOUTH (COMNAVSOUTH) to plan for shipping and war operations in these areas.

#### Assignment of Missions for Turkish Naval Forces

5. Upon the assignment of Greek and Turkish Naval Forces as outlined above, it is proposed to arrange with Turkish authorities for the assignment of a Turkish Flag Officer who will be responsible for offensive and defensive naval operations in the Black Sea; and further to establish the Sea of Marmara, and including the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, as a naval defensive area under a Turkish Flag Officer who will be responsible for the support of that army. Details of the command relationships of these commanders in the NATO organization will be worked out later.

#### Headquarters for Temporary Shipping Control in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean

6. It is proposed to arrange, through CINCSOUTH, with the appropriate Greek and Turkish authorities for the establishment, as a temporary measure, of a shipping control headquarters in Athens under a Greek Flag Officer with an integrated Greek and Turkish staff. This arrangement will be made without implications as to international financial support, and precise zone boundaries and "chop" lines for such shipping control purposes will be established later, in coordination with the national authorities concerned, by CINCSOUTH.

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Appendix

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