

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

1496

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-470-53

28 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: 1953 Annual Review Procedure

The dispatch at Enclosure is circulated for your consideration under Item 3 of your meeting at 1030, Monday, 30 March 1953.

J. L. Smith
J. L. SMITH
Secretary

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TO: SGLO, PARIS, FRANCE

INFO: SACEUR
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MOD, PARIS
MOD, LONDON

SUBJECT: 1953 Annual Review Procedure

1. For your information, consideration of SGM-304-53 is being postponed, and the substance of paragraphs 16 and 17 is being amended and transferred to a second paper (M.C. 46) which will cover all aspects of the 1953 Annual Review, i.e. policy, procedure, assumptions and military planning factors.
2. M.C. 46 is being put on the Military Committee Agenda after preliminary consideration by the MRC.
3. You should therefore inform the Council that, subject to Military Committee approval, the following are the Standing Group provisional views on the procedure for the 1953 Review.
4. The ideal procedure for future Reviews must, of necessity, be modified for 1953 because of the following facts:
 - a. The Review must be completed within six months.
 - b. The 1956 force requirements will not be available until mid-July at the earliest.
 - c. The 1954 infrastructure program will not be available until August.
 - d. The position regarding annual recurring costs is uncertain.
5. Bearing in mind paragraph 4 above, the following is the recommended procedure and timing:
 - a. By 30 April, the Council should issue politico/military assumptions and general instructions for the conduct of the Review.

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b. By 30 April, the Military Committee should issue instructions to Commanders and information to countries on military policy, procedure and planning factors.

c. By early May, the Council should issue Annual Review Questionnaire.

d. During May and early June, the Commanders should discuss proposed development of forces with countries.

e. By mid-June, Commanders should issue to countries and to the SG/MRC recommendations for improvement in the development of forces.

f. By end of June, SG/MRC to issue any coordinating guidance necessary to enable a collective balance of NATO forces to be maintained.

g. By end July, country replies to the questionnaire and the Commanders' recommendations should be submitted to the Council.

h. August and September to be spent in consideration of country submissions by the Annual Review Staff consulting Commanders as necessary.

6. Notes on above time-phasing:

a. Reference paragraph 5e. These recommendations will reflect the changes in size and pattern of forces being developed by Commands in connection with their work on 1956 force requirements.

b. Reference 5g. Country submissions for the 1953 Review should consist of:

(1) Country-planned adjustments to 1954 Force Goals emerging from the 1952 Annual Review.

(2) Extension of force goals to include 1955, 1956 [and possibly 1957 - not yet decided].

(3) Comments on the Command recommendations.