MEMORANDUM FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Summary of the NATO Military Command Structure and Terms of Reference and Areas of Responsibility of Major NATO Commanders and their Immediate Subordinate Commanders

Reference: I.P.T. 12/16/D

1. In accordance with the above reference, the International Planning Team has prepared a draft paper on the subject and a draft memorandum for the Major NATO Commanders.

2. The International Planning Team recommends that the Steering Committee transmits the draft memorandum with the Enclosures on the subject attached in order:
   a. To obtain the Major Commanders' comments on those parts which concern them.
   b. To obtain from the Commanders concerned the missing material listed in paragraph 2 of the draft Memorandum.

3. Your approval is requested.

IPT: Col Meltz, W/Cdr Bayliss, Capt Sowell

DIST: A, B
MEMORANDUM FOR SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER ATLANTIC
CHANNEL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: The NATO Military Command Structure

1. The Standing Group has under consideration the promulgation of a document listing the major NATO Military Commands and the first echelon of the subordinate commands and the broad areas of functional and geographical responsibility of these commands. This document will be strictly factual. It is intended only as a handy reference to existing terms of reference and not as a medium for amending these.

2. Copies of the draft publication on the subject are contained at Enclosure. It is requested that:
   a. SACEUR supply the material for Appendix "H" to Enclosure "B", and copies of "General Instructions for SHAPE Major Subordinate Commanders".
   b. SACLANT supply the material for Appendices "G", "H" and "I" to Enclosure "B".
NOTE BY THE SECRETARY
to the
STANDING GROUP
on
THE NATO MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE

1. The corner stone of the NATO Military Command Structure was laid when the North Atlantic Council approved D.C. 24/3 on 18 December 1951. Subsequently, the NATO Military Command has developed in accordance with the principles established in D.C. 24/3 and as influenced by the build-up of NATO forces and by the accession of Greece and Turkey to NATO membership.

2. The information contained at Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" has been obtained by extracting relevant matter, in whole or in part, from approved documents or communications. This compilation has been prepared with the purpose of providing in one source a compendium showing the major NATO Commands, the terms of reference of the major NATO Commanders and their immediate subordinate commanders and the broad areas of functional and geographical responsibility of these commanders. The documents and communications contained at Enclosure "D" should be referred to by those who desire more complete information on the subject.
MAJOR NATO MILITARY COMMANDS

Allied Command Europe (ACE)

1. The Allied Command Europe is commanded by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR). SACEUR has under his immediate command four major subordinate commands as follows:

a. Allied Forces Northern Europe (AFNORTH) under the command of the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe (CINCNORTH).

b. Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) under the command of the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Central Europe (CINCENT).

c. Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH) under the command of the Commander-in-Chief Southern Europe (CINCSOUTH).

d. Allied Forces Mediterranean (AFMED) under the command of the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Mediterranean (CINCAFMED).

Allied Command Atlantic (ACLANT)

2. The Allied Command Atlantic is commanded by the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT). SACLANT has under his immediate command the following major subordinate commands:

a. Eastern Atlantic Area (EASTLANT) under the joint command of the Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic Area (CINCEASTLANT) and the Air Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic Area (CINCAIREASTLANT). As an interim measure, pending further study and decision, SACLANT has delegated to CINCEASTLANT and CINCAIREASTLANT the temporary additional responsibility for the area delineated in D.C. 24/2 (Final) as the Iberlant Atlantic Area.

b. Western Atlantic Area (WESTLANT) under the command of the Commander-in-Chief Western Atlantic Area (CINCWESTLANT).

This Enclosure may be downgraded to RESTRICTED - NATO when detached from basic document.
Channel-Southern North Sea Area (CHAN)

3. The Channel-Southern North Sea Area is under the joint command of the Allied Commander-in-Chief Channel (CINCHAN) and the Allied Maritime Air Commander-in-Chief Channel (CINCMAIRCHAN).

Canada-U.S. Regional Planning Group (CUSRPG)

4. The command structure for this region has not been determined.
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS
AND THEIR IMMEDIATE SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS

The terms of reference of the major NATO Commanders and their immediate subordinate commanders are contained at Appendices as follows:

a. SACEUR - Appendix "A" - (M.C. 22/12 Final)*
b. CINCNORTH - Appendix "B" - (To be supplied by SACEUR)
c. CINCENT - Appendix "C" - (SHAPE AG 253 of 17 July 1953)*
d. CINC SOUTH - Appendix "D" - (SHAPE/376/53)*
e. CINCAF MED - Appendix "E" - (SHAPE/377/53)*
f. SACLANT - Appendix "F" - (M.C. 22/10 Final)*
g. CINCEASTLANT - Appendix "G" - (SACLANT Ser. 57 of 10 Apr 52 to be amended by SACLANT as necessary)
h. CINCAIREASTLANT - Appendix "H" - (SACLANT Ser. 56 of 10 Apr 52 to be amended by SACLANT as necessary)
i. CINC WESTLANT - Appendix "I" - (SACLANT Ser. 58 of 10 Apr 52 to be amended by SACLANT as necessary)
j. CINC HAN - Appendix "J" - (M.C. 34/1 Final)*
k. CINCMAIRCHAN - Appendix "K" - (CC(52)18)*
l. CUSRPG - Appendix "L" - Attached.

* To be reproduced and attached to final draft when despatched.
APPENDIX "L" TO ENCLOSURE "B"

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR

THE CANADA-U.S. REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP

The Canada-U.S. Regional Planning Group shall:

a. Prepare, approve and forward to the Military Committee, through the Standing Group, plans for and other material pertaining to, the defense of the Canada-U.S. Region.

b. Coordinate plans with SACLANT and other NATO Commands.

This Appendix may be downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL - NATO when detached from basic document.
DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Allied Command Europe

1. Definition of the Area

Norway and Denmark, including their coastal waters; the Skagerrak; the Kattegat; the Sound and Belts; the Baltic, including its southern littoral; Western Germany; Continental France, Belgium, the Netherlands; Luxembourg; the U.S., U.K. and French Zones of Austria and the U.S. and U.K. Sectors of Trieste, all on a covert basis; Italy; Greece (including Crete); Turkey and the Islands of the Aegean; French North Africa; Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily (see notes 1 and 2 in paragraph 6 of Appendix "D" to Enclosure "B"); the whole Mediterranean and Black Sea (national coastal waters will be a national responsibility); the approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar eastward of Longitude 5° 26' west.

2. Operational Boundaries

a. Between the Northern and Central European Commands:

North bank of the Elbe River, exclusive of Hamburg, to and exclusive of Boizenburg, thence east in a straight line to Stettin (inclusive to the North), thence in a straight line to Danzig (inclusive to the North), thence on a line bearing 80° (T) to the limit of range of aircraft.

b. Between the Central and Southern European Commands:

French-Italian border, Swiss-Italian border, Swiss-Austrian border, Austrian-German border to the east bank of the Inn River, thence along the Inn River to Passau, thence along the Passau-Vienna axis to the limit of the range of aircraft.

c. Between the Southern European and the Mediterranean Commands:

There is no established boundary between these commands since both commanders are assigned functional responsibilities which may require the operation of their respective forces throughout the whole Mediterranean and
Black Sea.

Allied Command Atlantic

3. Definition of the Area

a. The eastern boundary is a line from:

(1) The Tropic of Cancer northwards along the West African coast to -

(2) The Southern Frontier of French Morocco; thence through the following positions:
   (a) 10 miles off Agadir
   (b) 10 miles off Cape Ghir
   (c) 10 miles off Cape Sim
   (d) 10 miles off Cape Cantin
   (e) 10 miles off Cape Mazagan
   (f) 10 miles off El Hank Light (Casablanca);
   thence northwards to -

(3) The southern extremity of the Portuguese - Spanish frontier; thence by way of this frontier to -

(4) The northwest extremity; thence northwards and eastwards following the coast of Spain to -

(5) Cape Higuer Light; thence by way of the French coastal area through positions:
   (a) 277° la Coubre 24.5 miles
   (b) 270° Armen Rock Light (48° 03'N, 05° 00'W) 21.4 miles; thence to -

(6) Position 48° 39'N, 05° 35'W; thence to -

(7) Position 49° 50'N, 07° 00'W; thence to -

(8) Position 50° 30'N, 11° 30'W; thence to -

(9) Position 53° 00'N, 12° 00'W; thence to -

(10) Position 59° 00'N, 09° 00'W; thence 065° to -

(11) UNST light (northern point of Shetland Islands); thence to -

(12) Position 55° 00'N, 01° 00'E; thence to -
(13) Position *55° 00’N, 07° 38’E; thence to -
(14) Position *55° 36’N, 07° 10’E; thence to -
(15) Position *57° 08’N, 08° 10’E; thence to -
(16) Position *58° 24’N, 05° 26’E; thence to -
(17) Position *59° 14’N, 04° 32’E; thence to -
(18) Position *61° 02’N, 04° 08’E; thence to -
(19) Position *62° 00’N, 04° 11’E; thence to -
(20) Position *65° 14’N, 10° 44’E; thence to -
(21) Position *67° 37’N, 11° 14’E; thence to -
(22) Position *70° 05’N, 16° 33’E; thence to -
(23) Position *71° 16’N, 23° 48’E; thence to -
(24) Position *71° 21’N, 25° 48’E; thence to -
(25) Position *71° 14’N, 28° 49’E; thence to -
(26) Position *70° 25’N, 31° 50’E; thence to -
(27) Position *70° 00’N, 31° 00’E.

2. In connection with the western boundary, the Military Committee has approved the agreement between the NAORPG and CUSRPG that there be no geographical boundary between the Canada-United States Region (CUSR) and the Allied Command Atlantic Region, since the same operational authority will be responsible for both the ocean area and the coastal area of the eastern Canada-United States coast.

2. The southern boundary consists of the Tropic of Cancer extending due West from the coastal waters of West Africa to junction with the U.S. Eastern Sea Frontier (Lat. 23° 27’N, Long; 77° 50’W); thence to CAYO FRANCES Light (Lat. 22° 39’N, Long; 79° 14’W) off the North coast of Cuba; thence along the North coast of Cuba to Cape San Antonio; thence due West to 85th Meridian; thence due South to Lat. 18° 05’N; thence due West to a point on the Yucatan Peninsula at the Mexico-British

* These parts of the boundary have been provisionally approved by the Standing Group.
Honduras border.

4. Operational Boundaries

a. Boundaries between Eastern Atlantic Area and

(1) Western Atlantic Area: a rhumb line from the point where meridian 43° 00'W meets the coast of Greenland (NE of Cape Farewell) to position 42° 00'N, 20° 00'W.

(2) Iberian Atlantic Area as defined in D.C. 24/2 (Final): parallel 42° 00'N from meridian 20° 00'W to the Iberian Coast.

b. Boundaries between Western Atlantic Area and Iberian Atlantic Areas as defined in D.C. 24/2(Final):

Meridian 20° 00'W from parallel 42° 00'N to the Tropic of Cancer.

Channel-Southern North Sea Area

5. Definition of the Area

As defined in paragraphs 2 of Appendices "J" and "K" to Enclosure "B".

Canada-U.S. Regional Planning Group

6. Definition of the Area

Canada, United States and Alaska.

7. Operational Boundaries

The operational boundaries for this area have not been determined. (See para 4 of Enclosure "A" and para 3b above).
LIST OF REFERENCES

1. Allied Command Europe
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. M.C. 22/12
   c. SHAPE EDP 1-53

2. Northern European Command
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. SHAPE 25
   c. TOSHAP 33
   d. SHAPE EDP 1-53
   e. SHAPE

3. Central European Command
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. M.C. 17 (Final)
   c. SHAPE EDP 1-53
   d. SHAPE AG 2530 of 17 July 1953

4. Southern European Command
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. SHAPE 25
   c. TOSHAP 33
   d. M.C. 38/2 (Final)
   e. M.C. 38/3 (Final)
   f. TOSHAP 369
   g. SHAPE/376/53
   h. SHAPE/377/53

5. Mediterranean Command
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. M.C. 38/2 (Final)
6. Allied Command Atlantic
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. D.C. 24/2 (Final)
   c. M.C. 22/10 (Final)
   d. SAACLANT EDP 1-52
   e. SACLANT Ser.______
   f. SACLANT Ser.______

7. Eastern Atlantic Area
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. D.C. 24/2 (Final)
   c. SAACLANT EDP 1-52
   d. SAACLANT Ser.______

8. Western Atlantic Area
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. D.C. 24/2 (Final)
   c. SAACLANT EDP 1-52
   d. SAACLANT Ser.______

9. Iberian Atlantic Area
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. D.C. 24/2 (Final)
   c. SAACLANT EDP 1-52
   d. SAACLANT Dispatch 101702Z April 1952
   e. TOLANT 68
10. **Channel-Southern North Sea Area**
   a. M.C. 34 (Final)
   b. M.C. 34/1 (Final)
   c. CC(52)18
   d. S.G. 140/2 (Final)

11. **Canada-U.S. Region**
   a. D.C. 24/3 (Final)
   b. Council D-l/1
   c. CUS-1/2
   d. CUSRP3 - EDP/53