

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

1499

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-903-55

10 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF DEFENSE, DENMARK

SUBJECT: Procedures for Giving Military Advice to Countries Regarding their Defense Programs

Reference: M.C. 56 (Revised)

1. The Standing Group has studied the proposed amendments to M.C. 56 (Revised) forwarded in your letter of 9 December 1955. However, the Standing Group would like to point out certain objections which it has to the proposal and to give an amplification of paragraphs 9 and 10 of M.C. 56 (Revised) which it is thought may meet the requirements of all nations.

2. In paragraph 9 it is laid down that when the recommendations which would significantly alter a country's defense program are forwarded to the country concerned, the evaluation of the effect which adoption of these would have on the over-all NATO defense effort is also forwarded to the country.

3. Should the country concerned disagree with the evaluation, it could raise such objections before taking the next stage laid down in paragraph 10 of M.C. 56 (Revised). At that stage the country planning to adopt the recommendations would make its report to the Council, having already considered what the Standing Group report to the Council on the evaluation of the effect on the over-all NATO defense effort will contain.

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4. Such procedures would be in accordance with the already agreed Council memorandum, C-M(55)82(Final) on Procedures for Reporting Alterations to Defense Efforts, which takes into consideration our agreed military recommendations contained in SGM-259-55.

5. Should your amendment be included in M.C. 56 (Revised), it is pointed out that it would inevitably cause a long delay while Military Committee or Military Representatives Committee approval was sought before a country could adopt any recommendations. Such a delay is highly undesirable.

6. The Standing Group, therefore, feels very strongly that your proposed amendment would not be in the best interests of countries who wish to obtain the most effective advice on making adjustments to their defense programs.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

  
EUGENE A. SALET  
Colonel, USA  
Secretary

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