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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

1158

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-45-56

17 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EUROPEAN NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

SUBJECT: Communication Personnel for Merchant Ships
of more than 1600 GRT

1. The Standing Group has had under consideration the numbers of Radio Operators and Visual Signalmen that will be required for Merchant Ships of more than 1600 GRT in time of war. A minimum standard of manning is set out below. It is requested, however, that your agency will take this matter under consideration and, having ascertained the national views of NATO countries, report your conclusions to the Standing Group.

PROPOSED MINIMUM WARTIME COMPLEMENT
OF COMMUNICATION PERSONNEL FOR
MERCHANT SHIPS

Independently routed Merchant Ships with speeds over 17 knots.	: Four Radio Operators and eventually two Signalmen; communication complement to be reinforced by Naval personnel according to the mission.

Merchant Ships in convoy with voyages longer than 48 hours.	: Two Radio Operators.

Merchant Ships in convoy with special tasks (i.e. Commodore, Vice Commodore, D/F, search, etc.)	: Three Radio Operators.

Other Merchant Ships	: One Radio Operator

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2. Since very few Signalmen as such are carried in Merchant Ships in peacetime and Watch Officers should normally understand visual signals, the provision of Signalmen to Merchant Ships in war would be made as they become available and according to the mission of the ship.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:


C. H. SAMPSON
Commander, USN
Deputy Secretary