

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-185-57

12 March 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Supreme Allied Commander Europe
Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic
Allied Commander-in-Chief Channel
Allied Maritime Air Commander-in-Chief Channel

SUBJECT: Security Classification of Air Photographs

Reference: MAS(AIR)(56)86, 1 November 1956

1. The Military Agency for Standardization has requested Standing Group guidance on the subject of arranging for a more simple method of distributing air photographs during exercises. Because of security regulations, the objective that exercised photographs be permitted to pass freely from national to NATO channels has been difficult to achieve.

2. The problem has been considered by the Standing Group under the following principles:

- a. The classification of photographs is dependent upon the security regulations of the nation owning the photographs.
- b. Photographs taken by NATO forces must be classified in agreement with the NATO nation(s) whose territory, installations, equipment or forces form the subject of the photograph.
- c. National photographs used for NATO exercises must be accorded a NATO security classification equal to the national classification.

3. It follows from a consideration of these principles that no NATO body has the authority to alter existing national regulations. Consequently, the Standing Group considers international agreement on the free exchange of air photographs during exercises impracticable and concludes that such questions must be resolved as they arise by liaison between the NATO commanders and the nations concerned.

4. Copies of this memorandum are being furnished national authorities through the Military Representatives requesting cooperation with the operational commanders in meeting this problem.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

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Assistant Secretary

KCG/tml

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