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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

1250

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-246-57

5 April 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE

SUBJECT: SACLANT's Emergency Defense Plan 1-57

Reference: Norwegian Military Representative's Letter
JNR 387/617.04, 26 Feb 57

1. The Standing Group has considered the views expressed by the Norwegian Authorities in the reference and is appreciative of the interest shown therein.

2. The Standing Group wishes to assure the Norwegian Authorities that it has long been aware of the importance Norway attaches to SACLANT's support in an emergency and is in general agreement with the views expressed in the reference.

3. After review of SACLANT Emergency Defense Plan 1-57 the Standing Group concluded that the document was compatible with strategic guidance approved by all the NATO countries and provided sufficient flexibility to enable SACLANT to meet the exigencies of any emergency with a maximum of efficiency commensurate with his force availability.

4. It is noted that SACLANT's concept of operations envisages Striking Fleet operations from the Norwegian Sea in the early stages of war. Such operations will constitute indirect support to the defense of North Norway, as well as the referenced sea-lift planned for the mobilization phase, by neutralization of the Soviet threat.

5. Although with the forces available to NATO it is difficult to visualize a greater contribution to the defense of North Norway, the Standing Group feels the early presence of SACLANT's Striking Fleet, with its great offensive potential, in the Norwegian Sea should go a long way toward meeting Norwegian anxieties.

6. A copy of the reference is being forwarded to SACLANT who is invited to submit any further comment desired directly to you.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

R. A. Pigot

R. A. PIGOT
Colonel, Royal Marines
Deputy Secretary

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