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## NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

1751

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-248-57

5 April 1957

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION

SUBJECT: Standard Sea State Code

Reference: MAS(NAVY)(56)52

1. The Standing Group Meteorological Committee has considered the proposal in reference but is unable to determine the exact purpose for which Code FN 21A is to be used. Codes and instructions are available for reporting State of Sea to all agencies which normally report this phenomenon. These codes vary according to the type of report such as ship reports, POMAR's, serial reconnaissance, etc. Code FM 21A is only one of these and is unsuitable for use by all reporting agencies.

2. If the purpose of the Military Agency for Standardization is to establish a code for use in distributing State of Sea data to operational units, the Standing Group Meteorological Committee would have no objection to using FM 21A, as stated in reference, as an operational code. However, in that case the STANAG should include the complete codes, WMO tables 30 and 75, which define the values of each numerical group within the code. This would avoid operational organizations having to hold WMO Vol.B or HO Pub, 206, Vol. II in order to understand the State of Sea Report.

3. If the intent of the Military Agency for Standardization is to standardize a code for reporting observed state of the sea, the Standing Group Meteorological Committee would have to oppose the standardized use of FM 21A exclusively on the basis that it is unsatisfactory for use by aircraft.

4. In order that a final decision may be reached in this matter the Military Agency for Standardization is requested to inform the Standing Group of the specific purpose for which it is proposed to use this Standard Sea State Code.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:



A. LALANDE  
Colonel, French Army  
Deputy Secretary

AL/lp

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