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Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-263-57

19 April 1957

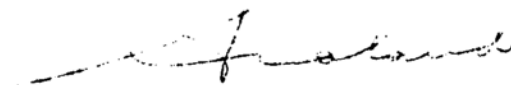
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE

SUBJECT: The 1957 NATO Infrastructure Program, Slice VIII

Reference: German Military Representative's letter  
Tgb.Nr. 118/57, 16 April 1957

On the request of the Minister of Defense, Bonn, the attached letter is brought to your attention.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:



A. LALANDE  
Colonel, French Army  
Deputy Secretary

AL/tml

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Secret

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GERMAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE  
TO  
MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE  
NATO

Tgb.No. 118/57 - NATO SECRET

16 April 1957

To: The Secretary  
Standing Group  
The Pentagon

Subj: The 1957 NATO Infrastructure Program, Slice VIII

Ref.: a. C-M(57)48  
b. MC 32/9(Final)  
c. AC/4-D/715

Since the Infrastructure Committee, according to reference a. above, will submit its recommendations on the programming of the Tactical Airfields of Slice VIII at a later date, request is herewith made to note the following and inform SACEUR accordingly.

1. In contrast to para 16 and 26 of reference b. above, the Federal Republic, as host nation, regrets at present not to be in a position to guarantee an early start of the construction of the 3 Tactical Airfields planned in the area of the Federal Republic and recommended by the MC for the program of Slice VIII. Consequently, when approval of this program will be discussed by the NAC, the German representative will, in all probability, have to submit a statement in confirmation of the above and will agree to the deletion of these airfields from the Slice VIII Program, despite the continued military requirement.

2. The reason for the unavoidable delay in the implementation of the program are the difficulties in respect of land acquisition which have now aggravated to an unexpected extent. In view of the large number of the existing national and NATO airfields which are already used by the Forces stationed in Germany, it becomes increasingly difficult to meet the landed property requirements for large airfields, the construction of which will have to comply with the NATO criteria. Any appraisal of the situation must take account of the fact that large landed properties for other military purposes have already been acquired and furthermore, that the whole territory of the German Federal Republic is not only very densely populated but also covered by an extremely dense traffic network while on the other hand a most intensive use is made of all arable land. The extent of industrial centres in Germany will be well known.

A forced acquisition of landed property for such purposes is now legally possible, however, the provisions made in order to safeguard civil rights, slow any such procedure down considerably.

3. Standing Group is herewith requested to take note of the above.

(signed)  
v. Tempelhoff  
Brigadier General, GA GS