

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

1280

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-339-57

23 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE TURKISH MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE

SUBJECT: Revised Terms of Reference for SACLANT (MC 58 (Revised))

Reference: Turkish Military Representative's Letter Serial 7176, 7 May 1957

1. The Standing Group notes the comments of the Turkish General Staff on the subject document.

2. Appreciating that the Turkish General Staff does not receive the SACLANT Emergency Defense Plan, the Standing Group wishes to reassure them that the point mentioned in their referenced letter is fully covered in that plan. SACLANT defines his mission therein as follows:

"The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic will gain and maintain control of vital sea areas in the ACLANT Region in order to:

"a. Project offensive power against the enemy.

"b. Protect sea and air communications.

"c. Defend NATO territories and islands against attacks from ocean areas.

"d. Support the operations of adjacent NATO and National Commanders, particularly in Europe."

3. Furthermore, in assigning tasks to his subordinate Area Commanders-in-Chief, he has in each case given the "Control and Protection of Sea and Air Communications" the first place.

4. The Standing Group did not specifically single out the protection of sea communications for inclusion in the Terms of Reference for the Supreme Commander as it considered that these were adequately covered by the inclusive phrase in paragraph 6a(2) of MC 58 (Revised) making SACLANT responsible for "The Overall Direction and Conduct of Wartime Operations Within His Region."

5. It is hoped that this reassurance will enable you to approve the paper without amendment when it is placed on the agenda of the Military Representatives Committee.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

W. E. Abblitt

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Assistant Secretary

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