

CONFIDENTIAL NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES

DOCUMENT:

AG/6-D/3

OR. FR.

2nd July, 1951.WORKING GROUP ON NATO SECURITYMemorandum by the Belgian Government.

In connexion with the consideration of document DC.2/7, Appendix, paragraph 3, the Belgian Government wishes to draw attention to document NATO SGM.193/51 (enclosed) concerning the Security Coordinating Committee which, in its view, raises a number of problems.

In its present form, the Security Coordinating Committee is exclusively military in character and, moreover, membership is restricted to those nations which are represented on the Standing Group.

The Belgian Government considers the position unsatisfactory and believes that security control and coordination in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should be the function, not of a purely military agency, but of a joint agency directly responsible to the Council Deputies instead of to the Standing Group alone.

It maintains that, for three reasons — the historical development of the NATO bodies, logic, and practical necessity — there is no justification at the present time for investing all security powers in the Standing Group authorities.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS(a) Historical development

Although it is true that the North Atlantic Council, at its meeting of 6th January, 1950, approved the formation of a Security Coordinating Committee (SCC), responsible to the Standing Group and composed only of the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, it must not be forgotten that the civilian authorities nevertheless retained the power to modify and control security measures taken with respect to non-military agencies.

1. Document DC.2/4 recalled that the "International Working Group", composed of the delegates of the diplomatic missions in Washington of the 12 nations, was directed to "keep under constant review the application of security regulations to non-military bodies in the Organization and, as experience indicates that these regulations need amendment in that field, propose such amendment to the Council". This document is dated 1st April, 1950.

One month later, the North Atlantic Council replaced the "International Working Group" by the "Council Deputies", which had now become the highest permanent agency of the North Atlantic Council. The Council did not, however, refer specifically to the special functions of the International Working Group which we have just described.

2. At that time, there also existed Regional Security Committees, known as "Joint Security Committees" composed

of delegates designated by the Governments and in which each country was represented "by a plenipotentiary member of the highest rank". The Belgian Government designated as its delegate the Director of the 3rd Political Department who acted as Chairman of the Western European Regional Group throughout its existence.

The creation of SHAPE to replace the 5 Regional Groups brought to an end the corresponding Security Committees. This meant that the civilian side was in fact eliminated from the COSMIC Security Organizations, although no specific decision to that effect had been taken.

5. It should also be noted that the Standing Group has reduced even further the opportunities of the representatives of NATO member countries other than the three major Powers to take part in the discussions of the Security Coordinating Committee (SCC): for, although document DC.2/1 provided that delegates would be coopted to enable them to participate in the discussions of the SCC, Document DC.2/7, which is now before the Deputies, only states that they will be invited to attend meetings of the SCC when their presence is deemed necessary by the latter.

These facts show that it was not the intention of the North Atlantic Council that all security powers should be vested in the military authorities alone, but that this has happened as an unforeseen result of certain reforms, interpreted unilaterally and carried through, usually, without notification to the civil authorities.

It is therefore necessary to find a way of returning to the spirit of the original decisions by restoring to the civilian side its proper share in Security matters.

(b) Logical arguments.

The recent reform of the North Atlantic Council, which has given it the character of a Council of Governments, has strengthened the position of the Council Deputies, who no longer represent the Foreign Ministers alone - that is, the civilian side - but also the other Ministers composing the North Atlantic Council, in particular, the Defence Ministers - that is, the military side.

Since the Council Deputies have thus become the agents of the Defence Ministers, they are logically called upon to give guidance even to the military authorities on matters of general interest.

It is therefore necessary that the Council Deputies should exercise some form of supervision over COSMIC and NATO security measures. It is out of the question that they should be subject, in this connexion, to the decisions of the Standing Group, especially in view of the fact, as we shall see later, that the secrets which have to be kept are not only military, but also political and economic secrets.

The reform proposed by the Belgian Government is accordingly entirely in line with the new NATO structure.

/Basically,

Basically, the Deputies would thereby inherit the tradition of the "International Working Group" referred to above.

(c) Practical necessity.

1. The strongest argument, however, is the practical necessity of making the new Security Coordinating Committee responsible to the Deputies in some form. The political and economic aspects of NATO's work are progressively expanding and it is not only military secrets, but also those contained in the documents of the various bodies such as the Council Deputies, the FEB etc., which must be safeguarded; since the latter continually give very detailed information of the highest importance in the political, economic and financial fields.

It is therefore important to ensure that there is no discrepancy in the security measures applied in all these fields.

2. In addition, the fact that the Standing Group and the SCC hold their meetings in Washington raises difficulties which must not be under-estimated. The countries which are most exposed to danger are the European countries, and particularly those of Continental Europe: if, in the event of an emergency or of international tension, it became necessary to communicate through the authorised channels with the Security authorities on the other side of the Atlantic, not hours, but days, would be lost and no vital decisions could be taken in time to safe-guard secrets which are the common concern of the NATO community.

It would therefore appear to be essential to bring the Security Coordinating Committee to London, where the Council Deputies already have their headquarters, in order to ensure its readiness to meet all eventualities.

Moreover, the fact that the new Committee will be the agent of all 12 countries will allow individual Governments to express their views expeditiously and effectively, which they cannot do under the present system, since only the three major Powers are members of the central bodies.

II. Proposal

What are the concrete proposals of the Belgian Government?

Generally speaking, the Belgian Government's proposal follows the lines of the Enclosure of document SGM-193-51 of 20th February, 1951, setting out the terms of reference of the Security Coordinating Committee, subject to the following amendments:

1. Composition:-

Paragraph 1:- The Committee would be composed of five, instead of three, members designated by the Governments through the Council Deputies and responsible to the Council Deputies.

/The

The five members of the Committee would be renewed at regular intervals.

Paragraphs 2 and 3: No change.

Paragraph 4: Delete the words "through the Accredited Representatives" and "Regional Security Committees or".

2. Functions

(a) "Be responsible to the Council Deputies", etc.

(b), (c), (d); No change, apart from the deletion from (c) of the reference to Regional Security Committees.

(e) Replaced by "Perform other security functions in accordance with the instructions of the Standing Group of the Council Deputies".

3. Location

Same headquarters as the Council Deputies.

The Belgian Government's view is that, if the Council Deputies so desire, it might be simpler to make the SCC responsible to the Chairman of the Council Deputies.

The choice of the official representatives of the NATO Governments, five of which will be designated at regular intervals, would be left to the respective Governments concerned. The individual Governments would choose whether they would be represented by a member of the Services or by a civilian.

Lastly, if the Standing Group so desires, it could be represented as such by a delegate of its own choice.

It is important to stress the joint character of the new groups; there is no question of depriving the military authorities of supervisory powers which are very largely their concern in order to confer them on civilians, but it is certainly desirable to include civilians in the membership of a body which is dealing both with civilian and military matters.

London, 28th June, 1951.

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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-193-51
20 February 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference for the Security Co-ordinating
Committee of the Standing Group

The Standing Group has directed that the enclosed draft of terms of reference for the Standing Group Security Co-ordinating Committee be referred to the Military Representatives for information and, if considered necessary, for comment. It is requested that any comments which the Military Representatives may desire to make be received by the Standing Group by 31 March 1951.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

(Signed)

C.H. DONNELLY
Senior Secretary

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for the

SECURITY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

of the

STANDING GROUPCOMPOSITION

1. The Security Co-ordinating Committee of the Standing Group shall be composed of one officer member from each nation represented on the Standing Group, namely, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.
2. The Committee shall remain in operation until such time as the creating authority deems its functions to be no longer necessary.
3. Members shall be experienced in the field of security and/or intelligence and should not be below the rank of lieutenant colonel or equivalent.
4. Members shall be permitted to co-opt the assistance of security representatives of other member countries (through the Accredited Representatives) and spokesmen from Regional Security Committees or Command Organisations when so desired.

FUNCTIONS

5. The Security Co-ordinating Committee shall:
 - (a) Be responsible to the Standing Group for recommendations and guidance concerning security policy.
 - (b) Supervise and periodically examine the functioning of the NATO Security System including COSMIC registries and the COSMIC system of communications. The authority of the country to be inspected will be obtained before the inspection is carried out.

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(c) Co-ordinate with all NATO National Security Authorities, Regional Security Committees, Command Headquarters and Agency Security Authorities in perfecting security measures throughout the Treaty Organisation.

(d) Co-ordinate as necessary with the Committees, Sections, and Working Teams of the Standing Group.

(e) Perform such other security functions as may be directed by the Standing Group.

LOCATION

6. The Security Co-ordinating Committee will be located with the Standing Group.