

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES

CONFIDENTIALDOCUMENTAC/6-D/4ENGL. ONLY29th June, 1951WORKING GROUP ON NATO SECURITYGENERAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
BY THE S.G. COORDINATING COMMITTEENote by the Secretary

At their meeting on 28th June, 1951 the Working Group on NATO Security instructed the Secretary to circulate to members of the Working Group the recommendations contained in the Report of the Security Coordinating Committee to the Standing Group (Document : S.G. 7/41, Enclosure "E", dated 21st June, 1951). The text of the recommendations, in English, is attached herewith. As the text of the authorized French translation is not available the document is being circulated in English only for the attention of members of the Working Group.

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GENERAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. On the conclusion of security examinations in Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and Italy the Security Coordinating Committee make the following observations and recommendations:-

a- The Committee found that in all countries visited there was preoccupation concerning the rapid destruction of Treaty documents in emergency. The Committee wish to invite attention of the security authorities of NATO countries to a cheap portable incinerator designed in the Netherlands for the specific purpose of this rapid destruction of documents. This incinerator is independent of any power supply and will dispose of 300 and 400 pounds of paper per hour. It is understood that there would be no difficulty in supplying countries other than the Netherlands with this incinerator. Security authorities and Control Officers are reminded of the authority given by D.C. 2/7 to destroy unwanted Cosmic and NATO documents and the Committee consider that it is highly important that at all times the number of documents held should be reduced to the minimum.

b. Several countries mentioned the necessity for evacuating in emergency persons particularly closely concerned with Cosmic and NATO matters. The Security Coordinating Committee consider that this measure may well be necessary in certain cases, but must be arranged entirely as the various Governments think fit.

c. In several of the countries visited the authorities drew the attention of the Committee to the undesirable practice of issuing Treaty papers direct to delegates at meetings without any record being kept. It is considered that this practice is likely to result in certain documents remaining unregistered by the countries which hold them and the Committee will formulate a rule concerning the procedure to be adopted when papers are issued at meetings and will propose its issuance as an addendum to D.C. 2/7.

d. One of the countries visited expressed some dissatisfaction with the fact that the Security Coordinating Committee, while required by its duties to make certain examinations into matters under civilian control, includes no civilian representation. While the Committee are of the opinion that the addition of civilian members is not practicable they consider that it is of the highest importance that there should be a close liaison between the military and civilian heads of security of the various countries; and they recommend that steps should be taken to set up in Europe some form of committee which will achieve this object, similar to the former Security Committee of the Western European Regional Planning Group which included civilian members. It is further recommended that the Council Deputies consider this problem.

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e. NATO countries are reminded that a frequent Cosmic/NATO courier service is in operation between Washington and London in which all members of NATO may participate with consequent saving of money and time in delivering documents.

f. Although there appeared to be good liaison between the civil and military security authorities within each of the countries visited, the Committee consider that the cause of good security would be advanced by the establishment of a national security committee in those countries where none at present exists, in order that the liaison may be put on an official basis and periodic meetings held as necessary.

g. It was disclosed that "COSMIC" and "NATO" documents are frequently forwarded by a NATO Agency directly to a national sub-registry. When this occurs the receiving sub-registry should immediately furnish the responsible Central Registry with a list of the documents received.

h. The annual inventory required by D.C. 2/7 involves a large amount of work. It is not feasible to conduct thorough inventories at frequent intervals, but it is strongly recommended that all control officers should frequently conduct a small scale check involving a limited number of documents.

i. The views of the Committee were sought concerning the need for some means of identification to be carried by visitors to COSMIC Registries. It is the Committee's opinion that such visitors should be furnished with some kind of letter or form to be surrendered on each occasion of a visit. They do not consider that NATO passes should be issued. It follows that each Central Registry and, where necessary, sub-registry, should have a specimen of the signatures of those Control Officers and their deputies who may sign letters of identification carried by visitors to other registries.