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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL: SEVENTH SESSION

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OR. FR.

18th September, 1951

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE LUXEMBOURG DEFENCE EFFORT

I. The contribution of Luxembourg to the Medium Term Defence Plan is being carried out according to plan.

This contribution, made up of one equipped battalion available during the present year, the size of which will finally be about one brigade, together with a field artillery regiment already equipped thanks to the generous assistance of the Canadian Government, is small in relation to the overall defence programme. Nevertheless, in relation to the population and resources of the country, it represents a considerable effort which could scarcely be exceeded.

Since the country does not produce war material properly so-called, the formation of the forces planned depends essentially on the possibility of obtaining from the Allied countries the material required for the equipment of the troops.

II. Within the framework of the programmes for common construction, Luxembourg is carrying out important infrastructure works.

The installation of an airfield is nearly completed.

In the immediate future the effort will be concentrated on underground telecommunications which, in view of the geographical position of the country, are very extensive, as is essential owing to military considerations.

The works in question will be completed in 1952.

III. As to the utilisation of manpower, Luxembourg is in a special position. Through mobilising whole annual classes without exemptions, Luxembourg has had to increase its intake of foreign labour, which at present represents a considerable proportion of the labour force.

In view of the importance of the iron and steel industries in the production of basic materials and of the specialisation of labour in this important sector, the Government is inevitably anxious to maintain the Luxembourg labour force at an adequate level. The incidence of military recruiting on the make-up and level of labour might, at any moment, give rise to special problems.

IV. Although the desire to develop accessory production in the interest of the Army has not been lost to sight, the Luxembourg Government considers that the greatest contribution it can make to the common production effort consists in continuing the production in which the country is specialised and which supplies the industries of other countries of the Atlantic Pact with the materials they need.

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Ottawa.