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13th June, 1952

SECRET
SUMMARY RECORD
AC/18-R/3

WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION
OF A PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS FOR N.A.T.O.

Summary Record of a Meeting held at the
Palais de Chaillot, Paris, on Thursday,
12th June, 1952, at 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairman: Mr. H.F.L.K. van Vredenburg
(Deputy Secretary General)

Mr. R.O.P. Thissen (Belgium) Mr. S.C. Sommerfelt (Norway)

Mr. E. Burin des Rozières (France) Dr. H.C. Queiroz (Portugal)

Mr. W.J. Galloway (United States)

INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Dr. H.D. Pierson (Acting Director of Budget and Accounts)

Miss L.M. Peart (Secretary)

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. P. Chatenet (France)

Mr. Prothin (Director General, Ministry of
Reconstruction and Town Planning)

Mr. Thiébaud (Ministry of Reconstruction and Town
Planning)

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I. FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

(Reference: AC/18-R/2, Item 1)

1. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL of the Ministry of Reconstruction and Town Planning, M. Prothin, reported to the Working Group as to the possibility of acquiring a site other than the OEEC one. He emphasised that any other site which might be found would be outside Paris, since all the possibilities within Paris had already been canvassed.

2. M. Prothin put forward the following suggestions:

(a) There were three possible sites at Neuilly. One was so small as to be impracticable; a second was slightly larger but it was planned to build an educational centre on the site, while the third, which was larger still, was earmarked for a High School. For psychological and practical reasons the Working Group agreed that none of the three could be considered as possible sites for a NATO H.Q.

(b) There were two other sites at Le Chesnais, between Versailles and Vaucresson. These were under private ownership and would have to be purchased, which would involve certain delays. A further disadvantage was the distance from Paris, which was about 17 - 18 kilometres.

3. The Working Group then turned to further consideration of the proposal to construct a permanent building on the OEEC site.

4. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE said that 450 offices would be available in the new building and an additional 81 in one of the existing OEEC annexes; of the latter, 54 were at present occupied by national delegations to NATO and would continue to be so occupied. Existing plans also provided for a larger conference room, which could, without difficulty, be modified to meet NATO's requirements for one average-sized conference room and several smaller ones.

5. The Working Group thought that this accommodation would be sufficient for NATO needs as far as they could be foreseen. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE indicated that there might be a possibility of acquiring an adjoining site later, if expansion became necessary.

6. As regards the problem of finding garage or parking space for cars, M. Prothin reported that the proposed construction of a third basement had been declared impracticable by the architect. However, he thought that sufficient ground for a parking site might be acquired at a distance of about 300 metres from the new building. The authorisation of the Paris municipal authorities to use the site for this purpose would have to be obtained. M. Prothin said that he would approach them in the matter.

7. M. Prothin added that the architect was prepared to discuss with the International Secretariat any necessary modifications of the plans of the proposed building to suit NATO requirements.

8. THE CHAIRMAN thanked M. Prothin and M. Thiébaud for their assistance.

9. THE WORKING GROUP:

Agreed to report to the Council on the following lines:

- (1) It was possible to acquire a site for building outside Paris, but this would probably involve considerable delays;
- (2) The Working Group, therefore, recommended adoption of the proposal to build a permanent building on the OEEC site.

10. THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE said that he had discussed the proposal to build on the OEEC site with his authorities in Paris, who still had some doubts as to the advisability of establishing the NATO permanent headquarters on the same site as the OEEC headquarters.

11. THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE indicated that the view of the Belgian Delegation was analagous to that expressed by the United States Representative.

12. The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.