

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE N° 178  
COPY

ORIGINAL: FRENCH  
24th June, 1952

NATO SECRET  
SUMMARY RECORD  
AC/18-R/4

WORKING GROUP ON THE QUESTION OF  
A PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS FOR NATO.

Summary Record of a meeting held at  
the Palais de Chaillot, Paris, on  
24th June, 1952 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT

Chairman: Mr. H.F.L.K. van Vredenburg (Deputy Secretary General)  
Mr. R.O.P.T. Thissen (Belgium)      Mr. E. Burin des Roziers (France)  
Mr. C. Burke Elbrick (United States)      Mr. K. Hedemann (Norway)  
Mr. Calvet de Magalhães (Portugal)

INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Dr. H.D. Pierson (Acting Director of Budget and  
Accounts)  
Miss L.M. Peart (Secretary)

CONTENTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
I	Proposals made by the French Government.	1.
II	Views of the Delegations represented.	2.

I. PROPOSALS MADE BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT  
(Reference C-R(52)9)

1. THE CHAIRMAN, weighing up the pros and cons, reviewed the two proposals put forward by the French Government, one of which concerned the plot of land at la Muette, and the other a site boarding on the Rond Point de la Défense.

A. Area of the respective plots

2. At la Muette, the entire area of the building site was only about 5,000 sq. metres. The possibility might be envisaged of acquiring a further 2,500 sq. metres, owned by the Saudi Arabian Government. At la Défense two hectares of land were available, belonging in part to the French Government, in part to the municipality of Courbevoie and in part to private interests. A road could be built to shut off a portion of this site.

B. Building restrictions

3. Building restrictions were more severe at la Muette than at la Défense. In both cases, there were sections in which building was prohibited, but it should be borne in mind that whereas at la Muette no building could exceed four storeys, at la Défense six storeys could be erected and even twelve on a piece of land overlooking the "Place" itself and which could, if necessary, be acquired at a later date.

C. Price of the land

4. The price of land was considerably higher at la Muette where the half-hectare was assessed at Frs.200,000,000, than at la Défense. On the latter site, the two hectares available would cost between a minimum of Frs.100,000,000 and a maximum of Frs.200,000,000.

D. Building time

5. At la Muette about a year would elapse between the decision to build and the completion of the work. At la Défense, about eighteen months would be required to allow for expropriation procedure and the delivery of building permits.

E. General considerations

6. Thus, if la Muette were chosen, there would be a considerable saving of time; the surroundings, moreover, were pleasanter. On the other hand, there could be no question of providing accommodation there for the NATO Secretariat and Delegations as well as for the E.D.C. If la Muette were chosen for NATO, and the Défense site reserved for the E.D.C. a fifteen minute car journey would ensure the necessary liaison. If, at some future date, NATO found its quarters at la Muette too cramped, the French Government would be prepared to buy the buildings back, and the proceeds of this sale could be devoted to the erection of another building.

7. Although the Défense site would provide greater floor-space than la Muette, (30,000 sq. metres, taking account of the height factor) it would not be large enough to contain both Organisations, unless the built-up land overlooking the "Place" were added to it. Negotiations with the Municipality of Courbevoie should not present any serious difficulties but might nevertheless be attended by hitches which would not be encountered at la Muette.

## II. VIEWS OF THE DELEGATIONS REPRESENTED

8. THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE who, at the beginning of the meeting had declared himself in favour of the Défense site, now stated that if it was not large enough to contain both Organisations, he would have to consult his Delegation once again.

9. THE BELGIAN AND PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVES declared themselves in favour of the Défense site.

10. THE NORWEGIAN AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES preferred the Muette site. The French Representative, however, added that his Government was prepared to accept a different view.

11. THE WORKING GROUP agreed:

(1) to report to the Council the views expressed by the Representatives of Delegations at the present meeting, and

(2) to recommend to the Council that, in the event of the Défense site being chosen the French Government should be left in charge of building operations in order to reduce building-time.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIIe.