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CIVIL DEFENCE COMMITTEE

DRAFT REPORT ON CURRENT WORK IN THE LIGHT OF THE
NEW ASSUMPTIONS

Note by the Secretary

In compliance with the Committee's request, the Civil Defence advisers have prepared the attached draft report and cover note to the Council on the impact of the new assumptions on the Committee's work. Delegations are requested to send to the Secretary any adverse comments they may have on the attached draft by 9th September.

2. If no adverse comments are received by that date, the attached draft will be considered final and will be submitted to the Council in compliance with the Council's instructions contained in paragraph 16 of document C-M(55)48(Final).

(Signed) P. ANNINOS

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.

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DRAFT REPORT ON CURRENT WORK IN THE LIGHT
OF THE NEW ASSUMPTIONS

Draft Note by the Chairman

In accordance with the Council's instructions contained in paragraph 16 of document C-M(55)48(Final), the Civil Defence Committee has prepared the attached report.

2. The Civil Defence Committee is in a rather different position from most other committees in that it has been devoting its attention to the new types of warfare for some time and new problems are kept under continuous study. The Committee is, however, examining the points which are particularly emphasised in the new assumptions and will, where necessary, devote particular attention to them.

(Signed) H. LABORIE

DRAFT REPORT ON CURRENT WORK IN THE LIGHT
OF THE NEW ASSUMPTIONS

At its last meeting held on 27th June, the Civil Defence Committee approved, subject to minor amendments, two papers dealing with thermo-nuclear warfare and the problem of fall-out. These two papers, which will form a background to the Committee's work and will provide guidance to member countries, cover broadly the points raised particularly in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Council's document.

2. The majority of the points in these two paragraphs either concern civil defence directly, or have a joint interest between civil defence and emergency planning. The only exception is subparagraph (f) of paragraph 10, which deals with sabotage activities, which are not normally considered to be a civil defence responsibility.

3. The Committee has already directed its attention to the vital importance of the maintenance of government authority, and particularly of keeping up morale. In view of the Council's directions, however, it will intensify its activities with a view to exchanging views between member countries in regard to measures they propose to take for the decentralisation of governments, and the maintenance of local government in all forms. The results will be included in a further report by the Committee, as requested.

4. In regard to matters coming under the heading of preservation of human life, some attention has already been given to the question of the maintenance of public utilities and matters of this kind, and, in conjunction with the appropriate NATO committees, investigations are at present in hand in regard to the maintenance of ports and inland transport facilities. A study group on port protection has already been set up.

5. There is already a special committee - the Medical Committee - which has been investigating the stockpiling of medical and pharmaceutical supplies. It will probably also deal with the question of maintenance of hospital and health services.

6. A great deal of work has already been carried out on emergency cooking and matters of this kind, and will continue.

7. In regard to paragraph 11(b), considerable discussion has already taken place on measures of evasion as a means of preserving the lives of the population. These discussions will continue in the light especially of the different conditions which might be experienced in Europe and the North American continent. The question of shelters has received some attention, but the committee propose to devote more time to this very important problem, which is complementary to measures of dispersal and evacuation.

8. So far as the organization of civil defence services is concerned, these are kept constantly under review and a special working party has been considering the problem of mobile columns and also fire. Other problems concerned with rescue and rescue equipment are also under very close study, and a certain amount of experimental work is being carried out.

9. The Committee is in fact, and has been for some time, engaged on studying problems to which the Council has particularly directed its attention, and the expert Civil Defence International Staff are working closely with other NATO committees, so as to provide advice and assistance on related problems. It will ensure that particular attention is paid to one or two problems, e.g. shelters, to which it has not yet devoted a great deal of time, chiefly because technical information has been lacking and has therefore prevented the Committee from profitably studying these matters.