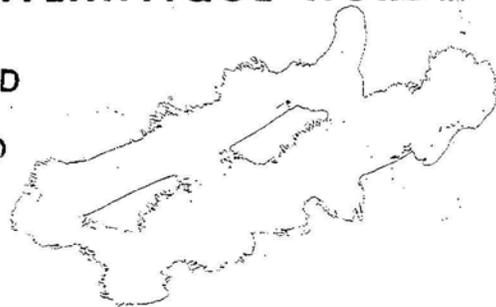


## NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES SUPPLEANTS DU CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

287

NATO UNCLASSIFIED  
and  
PUBLIC DISCLOSED



ORIGINAL ENGLISH  
1st April, 1952

~~SECRET~~  
DOCUMENT  
D-D(52)85

### SWISS MERCHANT MARINE IN TIME OF WAR

#### Note by the Executive Secretary

There is attached hereto a redraft by the Political Working Group of the draft memorandum submitted by the United Kingdom Deputy (Document D-D(52)82) on the subject of the Swiss Government's requests regarding the treatment of the Swiss Merchant Marine in time of war.

The United States representative on the group reserved his Government's position in the matter.

The Norwegian representative raised the point whether the contents of the reply to the Swiss Government should also be made known to other prospective neutral governments.

(Signed) N.E.P. SUTTON.

13, Belgrave Square,  
London, S.W.1.

SECRET  
D-D(52)85

1. The Swiss Government have sought through the Italian Delegation to the North Atlantic Council Deputies to obtain two assurances from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

first, that ships under the Swiss flag be allowed, in case of war, to continue to refuel in the harbours of the NATO member countries on the same conditions as the ships of these countries;

and, secondly, that ships under the Swiss flag be not requisitioned or subjected to any restrictive measure, both in prevision of a war and in case of war, by NATO or NATO member countries.

2. The North Atlantic Council Deputies have consulted their respective Governments and are able to state that in the event of general war arising out of an attack on the NAT powers, and subject to the overriding requirements of the NAT countries and their Allies, due regard would be paid to the legitimate requirements of ships under the Swiss flag for bunkering and other shipping facilities in order to maintain the essential supplies required by Switzerland. In return for these facilities the Governments of NATO would expect Swiss and all other neutral shipping to comply with whatever measures might be imposed in order to ensure:

- (a) that neutral shipping was not employed in a manner prejudicial to the general purposes and objectives of the NATO war effort;
- (b) that neutral shipping and neutral countries adjacent to enemy territory did not serve as channels or sources of supply to the enemy.

The Governments of NATO regret that they cannot at the present time guarantee that ships under the Swiss flag would in the event of hostilities receive exactly the same refuelling facilities as the ships of NATO countries.

3. The Governments of NATO, although unable to give specific assurances, desire to make known to the Swiss Government that the requisitioning of neutral ships in the event of war is not at present contemplated, that such requisition is unlikely to take place, and that it would be resorted to only exceptionally and as an extreme measure for minimum periods.