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MPSB(50)13 (Ltr)

COPY NO. 136

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
MILITARY PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY BOARD
15, Chesham Place
London, SW 1

30 March 1950

Subject: Standardization

To: Chairman,
Military Committee.

1. There is transmitted herewith MPSB(50)13(Revised) "Standardization", which was considered and approved by the North Atlantic Military Production and Supply Board at its second (1st 1950) meeting held on 24 March 1950 at The Hague.

2. Subject document is forwarded in accordance with decision of the Board at the said meeting. Particular attention is invited to the recommendations and requests contained in paragraph 4.

THOMAS E. DRUMM, Jr.
Secretary

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MPSB(50)13 (Revised)

30 March 1950

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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY BOARD

STANDARDIZATION

(Note by the Secretary)

The following document was considered and approved by the North Atlantic Military Production and Supply Board at its second meeting (1st 1950 meeting) held on 24 March at The Hague.

The Board further agreed that this Document as adopted be forwarded to the Military Committee.

THOMAS F. DRUMM, Jr.
Secretary

STANDARDIZATION

Note by the U. S. Delegation

1. The North Atlantic Defense Committee directive to the Military Production and Supply Board includes "the promotion of more efficient methods for producing military equipment and of the standardization of parts and end-products of military equipment."

2. The complexity of the problem of standardization indicates that if progress is to be made in the field, a particular segment of the whole must be mapped out and action started initially on that rather limited basis. On decisions with respect to standardization of end items rest decisions on standardization of spare parts and, to some extent, of methods of production. Decisions on standardization of measurements also rest, at least in part, on decisions with respect to standardization of end products. It is, therefore, considered that the first attack should be on standardization of end products. Even this field, however, represents too broad and complicated a front to attack without further breakdown.

3. It is suggested that for the initial attack on the problem, end products be broken down into such items as small arms, certain types of electronics equipment, and general purpose vehicles, upon which agreement could be most easily reached. If the military bodies could agree on certain items in the above categories, the way would be paved for standardization and for coordinated and integrated production of those items. It should be emphasized that without standardization decisions any progress toward integration of production will be limited.

4. As suggested above, the decisions with regard to the standardization of items is necessarily a military one. It is recommended, however, that the Military Production and Supply Board take the following steps:

- a. Express to the Military Committee its deep concern over the problems of standardization and the necessity for some progress to be made in standardization if production of end products is to be integrated and the best use be made of available productive resources.
- b. Recommend that appropriate procedures be established in military bodies whereby agreement on standardization can be reached.

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- c. Recommend that the Standing Group select and agree on certain items in the categories mentioned above, or in other categories, and advise the Military Production and Supply Board of its decision.
- d. Direct the Permanent Working Staff to select certain items in the deficiency lists submitted by the Pact nations:
 - (1) which appear most readily susceptible of standardization.
 - (2) the standardization of which are most likely to lead to economy through integration and coordination of production.
 - (3) the standardization of which will tend to simplify the supply problem, particularly with respect to spare parts.
 - (4) the standardization of which is likely to permit improved methods of production most readily.
- e. Recommend to the Military Committee that items selected in d above in addition to the action taken in c above be considered in its deliberations on standardization.

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