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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

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RDC/264/57

TO: Secretaries of Delegations
FROM: Executive Secretary

Military Documents concerned with Implementation
of the Political Directive and the Annual Review
(Previous reference: RDC/75/57)

Reference my note of 20th February (RDC/75/57), I now attach a further memorandum from the Standing Group Representative which gives the latest information concerning documents M.C.70 and M.C.55/I which are being prepared by the NATO military authorities in connection with the implementation of the Political Directive and the Annual Review.

(Signed) COLERIDGE

of ... liquidation ...

10th July, 1957

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OFFICE OF THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

3rd July, 1957.

Military Documents concerned with the Implementation
of the Political Directive and the Annual Review

1. Last February, delegations received the note attached to document RDC/75/57 summarising the purpose and scope of the three basic documents whose preparation was being pursued or considered by the NATO military authorities in connection with the implementation of the Political Directive and the Annual Review.

Since then, two of these basic documents have been approved by the Council and adopted as final, i.e.:

- (a) M.C.14/2 : Overall Strategic Concept for the Defence of the NATO Area.
- (b) M.C.48/2 : Measures for the Implementation of the Strategic Concept.

The military authorities are now in the process of completing the two documents referred to below.

M.C.70 - Minimum Essential Force Requirements

2. The general framework within which this document will be established was indicated in note RDC/75/57 under the title: "Standing Group Forces Posture Paper". It will be the military minimum estimate of the essential forces required for the implementation of the new Political Directive. Its basis will be the studies now being prepared by the major NATO commanders. The force requirements will probably be given by commands and for the period 1958 - 1962.

3. The preparation of this paper on minimum essential force requirements has been delayed by the request made to SACEUR by the Council for a study of the problems raised by the WEU Council as a result of its examination of the United Kingdom proposal to reduce its forces stationed on the continent of Europe. SACEUR, for his assessment of minimum requirements, will have to take account of the results of this study.

4. It is now anticipated that the views of the major NATO commanders concerning their requirements will be in the hands of the Standing Group by September and that document M.C.70 will be ready for consideration by the Military Committee in October.

5. M.C.70 will complete the series of basic documents necessary to implement the new Political Directive.

M.C.55/1 - Military Planning Factors

6. To take account of the new documents referred to above, the Standing Group has also considered it necessary to revise M.C.55, which provides countries and military commanders with military planning factors. The new version will cover Standards of Readiness, War Reserves and Damage and Losses likely to occur as a result of Enemy Action.

7. The Standing Group is proceeding with this revision in consultation with the major NATO commanders. It is expected that the revised version will be approved by the Military Committee in October. It will then be submitted to the Council for approval.

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