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DOCUMENT  
AC/19-D/12

COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW

FURTHER OUTLINE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ANNUAL REVIEW

Note by the Secretary

The Committee has previously considered documents AC/19-D/9 and AC/19-D/10 in which the Secretariat set forth certain aspects of remaining stages in the Annual Review. AC/19-D/10 was approved by the Committee as a guide to these stages on the understanding that the maximum degree of flexibility would be retained and that certain aspects of this procedure would be discussed by the Committee again during August (AC/19-R/7, Item II; AC/19-R/8, Item II).

2. In Document C-M(52)60 the Secretariat has set forth certain broad assumptions on the procedure which might be adopted for participation of member Governments in the review process. This paper was considered by the Council at its 18th Meeting and deferred for further consideration at its next meeting (C-R(52)18, Item II).

3. There is circulated herewith a further memorandum by the Secretariat, prepared in the light of the reference documents cited above, for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting.

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As previously forecast in Document AC/19-D/10, the Report which will summarise the results of the Annual Review should contain a series of chapters dealing with the subjects covered by the Questionnaire, e.g. military considerations, required and planned expenditures, etc. Each of these chapters would deal with the overall position of reporting countries as a whole in a particular field. It seems appropriate, as suggested in AC/19-D/10, that this synthesis should be prepared by the Secretariat, organised in specialised teams, in liaison with representatives of the Working Groups described below, and then submitted to the Annual Review Committee.

2. The Report should also contain a picture of the position of each individual country, as it emerges both from the country's reply to the Questionnaire and from the subsequent discussions. In the view of the Secretariat, this part of the Report involves preparations, which can be broken down into three types of operations, described as (a), (b) and (c) in C-M(52)60, paragraph 1.

(a) A statistical examination by the staff.

(b) The development of a brief, including questions to be addressed to the reporting country.

(c) Discussions with country representatives.

3. It had been envisaged that this preparatory work would be conducted in three successive stages: in order to reduce the amount of time involved, it seems possible, and in some respects advantageous, to proceed simultaneously with all three operations. As soon as a reply to the Questionnaire has been received from any country, the staff would start to apply statistical checks, making available the results of their work as it is completed; at the same time Working Groups, including representatives of delegations and of the staff, would start preparing briefs and questions. (A suggestion for the constitution of these Groups is at Appendix I.) Technical questions would be put to the country as they arose; policy questions, while being notified unofficially to the country concerned, would be collected and submitted to all delegations when a comprehensive list of questions has emerged. These questions, together with any supplementary ones suggested by delegations, would then be put formally to the country, the answers being elicited in due course by the Group in oral discussions.

4. The findings of each Group will constitute an appendix to the main Report; the latter will contain in its second part a short summary of these findings. It is proposed that these summaries be prepared by the staff, checked with the Working Groups and submitted with the rest of the Report to the Annual Review Committee.

5. In addition to Parts I and II of the Report, it will no doubt be necessary to summarise the main points and suggest conclusions, which would form a third and last part of the Report.

6. The preparation of the draft Report as described above would be, of course, supervised by the Annual Review Committee, and it is hoped that this body could adopt it quickly, for transmission to the Council and consideration by the Military Committee. The chiefs of delegations would no doubt wish to consult their Governments; in the light of comments from the delegations, and of the appreciation of military risks, a revised Report would be prepared, for final consideration by the Council. It may be convenient, at this stage, to arrange for a meeting of the Council at ministerial level.

7. The above proposals could, it is thought, be carried out, down to the stage of submission of the revised Report to the Council, by 15th December, provided that replies to the Questionnaire are received between 15th September and 11th October. It is hoped that in the course of ten weeks running from 15th September to 22nd November, the first draft of the Report may be completed. This timetable gives four to eight days for each country study, assuming that two teams can work simultaneously. These four to eight days would not, of course, be consecutive. During the latter part of the exercise, i.e. 23rd November to 15th December, a full two weeks would be available to delegations for the study of the draft Report. A detailed timetable, assuming that the last country reply is received not later than 11th October, is attached at Appendix II.

8. It is clear that the amount of time available under this plan would not allow for a full examination of all aspects of each country's rearmament programme. In particular, there would be very little opportunity for detailed screening and costing. Nor, of course, could the examinations take into account the general conclusions which would emerge from the complete report. It is therefore suggested that there should be further consultations with each country in the first half of 1953, constituting the process of "continuous review" envisaged at Lisbon. These would lead to a fuller knowledge of each country's programme, in time, among other things, to advise with reference to any off-shore procurement programmes for 1953-54.

To study the detailed replies and conduct the examinations of the fourteen countries in a short period will involve great pressure of work. It appears necessary therefore to entrust the management of the enquiry for each country to a small group of delegates, who would be expected to familiarise themselves with all the details of the country being examined and to attend all the meetings of the Group. All meetings would, of course, be open to any other delegations who cared to attend.

2. The Secretariat suggests that a convenient arrangement might be groups of four to six delegations, composed in such a way as to give each delegation the opportunity to serve, and meeting under the Chairmanship of a member of the Secretariat. Two such groups would require to meet simultaneously.

TIMETABLE FOR ANNUAL REVIEW

(from receipt of last country reply, assumed to arrive on 11th October)

	Number of Weeks Needed for operations by:			Dates of Completion of operations
	Staff	Working Groups	Annual Review Committee	
1(a) Statistical examination, preparation of summary tables for the country concerned . . . . . concurrently with:	2			25th Oct.
(b) Preparation of country summary and draft questions distributed to all delegations . . . . .		2		25th Oct.
2. Comments by delegations, revision and distribution of summary and questions, completion of discussion with country delegates . . . . .		1		1st Nov.
3(a) Completion of part of the report and annex relating to country . . . . . concurrently with:	1			8th Nov.
(b) Completion of subject chapters, in the light of country examinations . . . . .	1			8th Nov.
4. Completion and adoption of draft Report . . . . .			2	22nd Nov.
5. Review by Permanent Representatives and Military Committee . . . . .			2	6th Dec.
6. Revision of draft report and re-submission to Council . . . . .			1	13th Dec.

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