

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES

SECRETDOCUMENT:AC/2-D/1OR. ENG.28th March, 1951.NATO REORGANIZATIONNote by the Secretary

In the course of their discussion on 21st March, 1951, on the reorganization of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Summary Record D-R(51)23, Item IV), the Council Deputies agreed that the task of drafting revised terms of reference for the North Atlantic Council and its subordinate bodies could now be undertaken by the Political Working Group. They noted that the Canadian Deputy had embodied suggested revised terms of reference in a working paper, and invited him to circulate his paper to the Political Working Group as soon as possible. Copy of the working paper prepared by the Canadian delegation is attached. As previously notified, initial discussion of the paper by the Working Group will take place on Thursday, 29th March, 1951, at 3 p.m.

(Signed) L.M. PEART.

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

Working Paper on Terms of Reference of Council
and Council Deputies in form of Draft Resolution
for Approval by the North Atlantic Council.

The North Atlantic Council, pursuant to their Resolution of the 19th December, 1950 (Document C6-D5(Final)), having considered certain proposals for the reorganization and simplification of the structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization put forward by the Canadian Representative, together with other related proposals, have agreed that Sections I, II, III, VII and VIII of the Report of the Working Group on Organization, as adopted by the Council on 17th September, 1949, shall be replaced by the following provisions:

I. ORGANIZATION

2. The North Atlantic Council is the principle body in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In accordance with the Treaty, the Council is charged with the responsibility of considering all matters concerning the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty. Such subsidiary bodies as are set up under Article 9 of the Treaty are subordinate to the Council.

3. The organization established under the North Atlantic Treaty should be operated with as much flexibility as possible and be subject to review from time to time. The establishment of this machinery does not preclude the use of other means for consultation and co-ordination between any or all of the Parties on matters relating to the Treaty.

II. COUNCIL

4. The Council shall be a Council of Governments and its members shall represent their respective Governments as a whole. It shall constitute not only the Council envisaged/

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envisaged in Article 9 of the Treaty but also the Defence Committee referred to in the same Article. The Council shall be composed of persons of Ministerial rank, though in exceptional circumstances member Governments may be represented by other persons duly designated for the purpose. Heads of Governments may attend meetings of the Council in person. Otherwise Governments shall be represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs and/or, according to the nature of the Agenda, by their Ministers of Defence, or Finance, or other competent Ministers.]

Proposed United States alternative draft text of paragraph 4:

[The North Atlantic Council will represent the respective Governments of the member states. It shall incorporate not only the Council envisaged by Article 9 of the Treaty but also the Defence Committee referred to in the same article. The Council shall be composed of members of ministerial rank although in exceptional circumstances member Governments may be represented by other persons duly designated for the purpose. Heads of Governments may attend meetings of the Council in person. Otherwise, governments shall be represented by their Minister for Foreign Affairs and/or their Minister of Defence or by other competent Ministers [especially by their Minister responsible for financial and economic affairs] according to the nature of the Agenda.]

(For alternative texts of agreed minute to paragraph 4, see Annex A.)

Terms of Reference

5. The North Atlantic Treaty shall constitute the terms of reference of the Council.

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Time and Frequency of Sessions

6. The Council shall be convened by the Chairman and shall meet in ordinary session annually and at such other times as may be deemed desirable by the majority of the Parties. Extraordinary sessions under Articles 4 and 5 of the Treaty may be called at the request of any party invoking one of these Articles.

Location

7. The location of each session of the Council shall be determined by the Chairman after consultation with the other members of the Council. For general convenience the ordinary annual session should normally be held at about the same time and in the same general geographical area as the annual session of the General Assembly. Other ordinary sessions should whenever practicable be held at some convenient location in Europe.

Chairmanship

8. Chairmanship shall be held in turn by the Parties according to the alphabetical order in the English language. Each Party shall hold the office from the beginning of one ordinary annual session until the appointment of the new Chairman at the following ordinary annual session. If any Party does not wish to accept the chairmanship it shall pass to the next Party in alphabetical order.

Languages

9. English and French shall be the official languages for the entire North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

III. COUNCIL DEPUTIES

10. The Council Deputies constitute the permanent working organ of the Council of Governments. When the Council is not in session, the Council Deputies shall represent/

represent the Council in all its aspects.]

Terms of Reference

11. [The Council Deputies shall have as their general terms of reference those of the Council. They shall be responsible for carrying out its policies and, in particular, shall:

- (a) ensure co-ordination of the work of all bodies established under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;
- (b) formulate issues requiring decisions by the Member Governments;
- (c) exchange views on political matters of common interest within the scope of the Treaty;
- (d) Furnish direction to the military agencies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as to the political considerations upon which strategic decisions should be based, and provide political direction to other NATO bodies as appropriate;
- (e) promote and co-ordinate public information in furtherance of the objectives of the Treaty while leaving responsibility for national programmes to each country;
- (f) consider what further action should be taken under Article 3 of the Treaty, taking into account the work of the existing agencies in this field.]

Proposed United States alternative draft text of paras.10 and 11:

[The Council Deputies shall represent all ministers concerned with North Atlantic Treaty matters between Council sessions on a permanent and continuous basis. When the Council is not in session, the Council Deputies shall carry out the policies of the Council, formulate issues requiring decisions by the Council or by member governments, and

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otherwise constitute a body which may register the approval of their governments as obtained on matters before them for consideration. The Council Deputies shall deal directly with the Standing Group (military committee as presently constituted when that body is in session) on political matters having military implications and shall provide the Standing Group (military committee as presently constituted when that body is in session) with the political guidance upon which strategic decisions should be based. The Standing Group shall maintain close liaison with the Council Deputies and provide that body advice on military matters. The Deputies shall be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of and giving guidance to all the other permanent organs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Each Deputy shall be assisted by such advisers as are deemed necessary by his government.⁷

Chairmanship

12. The Council Deputies shall select a Permanent Chairman from among their membership. The Chairman, in addition to presiding at meetings of the Deputies, shall be responsible for directing the organization and its work. The Council Deputies shall also appoint a Vice-Chairman who shall act in the absence of the Chairman, the office to rotate alphabetically by countries (in the English language) at the end of each calendar month.

In order to fulfil their task as stated in subparagraph (a) of their terms of reference, the Council Deputies shall establish effective liaison arrangements with the other organs of the Treaty Organization which are located elsewhere, and particularly with the Standing Group in Washington.

/Time

Time and Frequency of Sessions

13. The Council Deputies shall be so organized as to function continuously.

Location

14. The Council Deputies shall have their headquarters in London.

IV. DEFENCE PRODUCTION BOARD

15. The organization and terms of reference of the Defence Production Board shall be as set forth in Council Deputies Document D-D/205 of 7th December, 1950. The Board shall report to the Council Deputies, keep them currently informed of the progress of its work, and receive guidance from them.

V. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC BOARD

ANNEX A

Alternative texts of Agreed Minute to be read
in conjunction with paragraph 4.

[It was agreed that the presence of too many ministers at Council meetings would lead to considerable inconvenience, and that Governments should therefore be urged to keep their representation to the minimum called for by the Agenda. It was felt that as a general rule it should be possible by careful arrangement of the Agenda in advance to limit the occasions on which the presence of more than one Minister would be necessary. The Deputies would, of course, consult among themselves in regard to the preparation of the Agenda, if only to ensure that as far as possible member Governments were represented by similar Ministers at the different meetings.

It was recognized, however, that it might be an advantage if from time to time Council meetings were attended jointly by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, of Defence and Finance. It was suggested that in such cases the progress of work would be facilitated if the Council resolved itself into sub-committees on which the different Ministers would sit, these sub-committees reporting back to the plenary meeting of the Council.]

Proposed United States alternative draft text of
Agreed Minute (paragraph 4)

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