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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

NORTH ATLANTIC DEFENSE COMMITTEE

on

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER ATLANTIC

1. The Enclosure is a report by the Standing Group, amended in the light of comments received from the Military Representatives and approved, as amended, at the 8th Meeting of the Military Representatives Committee on 26 March 1951. In approving this report on behalf of their governments, the Military Representatives Committee instructed the Secretary to:

a. Issue the Terms of Reference to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic as soon as he is appointed.

b. Transmit the Terms of Reference to the Council Deputies for their information.

c. Transmit the Terms of Reference to the Defense Committee for final consideration and approval at their next Meeting.

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2. The Enclosure is, therefore, circulated for consideration by the North Atlantic Defense Committee with the recommendation that it be approved and appended to D.C. 24/3 (FINAL) as Appendix "B" thereto (the present appendix to that paper being redesignated as Appendix "A").

Per Authority IMS-119-96

By J.P. MORANT Date 26 May 58

IMS Control No 1012

C. H. DONNELLY

V. H. PATRIARCA

REGRADED Secretaries

Per Authority DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION MEMO # 37

By JCR Date 2/23/55

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ENCLOSURE

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER ATLANTIC

COMMANDER:

1. A Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic is hereby designated and the establishment of his headquarters is authorized in accordance with the provisions of D.C. 24/3. The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic shall have an integrated staff and a national liaison section both composed of appropriate officers from nations contributing to his command.

AREA:

2. The area of responsibility of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic and of his area commanders will be as set forth in D.C. 24/2 or as redefined by responsible higher authority.

3. The control and the defense of the zones of the interior and coastal waters of sovereign nations in and/or bordering the command area of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic will be the direct responsibility of the national authorities concerned, who will grant Allied commanders all facilities necessary for the efficient conduct of operations according to agreements with the governments concerned.

POWERS IN WAR:

4. The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in war will exercise the full powers of a Supreme Commander.

5. The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic will be responsible to the Standing Group for the over-all direction and conduct of wartime operations within his area. He will also be responsible directly to the Standing Group for the general formulation and dissemination of policy, the assignment of forces, missions and

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operational areas to his subordinate commanders, and for the development of operational plans. He will, consistent with his other responsibilities, support the operations of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. These powers may later be defined in greater detail by the Defense Committee after consulting with the Military Committee.

POWERS IN PEACE:

6. One of the functions of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in peacetime is to ensure that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces which will be made available by nations for the defense of the Atlantic Ocean Region will be organized, equipped, trained and ready to operate together to implement war plans. Since his peacetime functions are in effect a prelude to his wartime responsibility for the defense of his area of command, his peacetime responsibilities shall include:

- a. The development of plans and the preparations necessary for the execution of his assigned wartime missions.
- b. The organization for and conduct of international combined training* of national units earmarked for his command in war which can be made available in order to ensure that they can operate as effective forces, integrated as necessary.
- c. Informing national authorities of his operational and logistic requirements for these forces in war.
- d. The coordination of his planning with that of other North Atlantic Treaty Organization and national commanders and cooperation with them in the accomplishment of their missions.
- e. Making recommendations to the Standing Group and to national authorities on the notice at which forces should be

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* "International combined training" where used in this paper is defined as that training necessary to permit units of combined and joint forces of different nations to operate together effectively to carry out assigned tasks.

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held in readiness to reach their war stations, based on current intelligence. Similarly, he should make recommendations on infrastructure, training standards, adequacy of forces, etc., and such other military matters as will affect his ability to discharge his war and peacetime missions.

f. Proposing to the Standing Group any changes in planning and command organizations which he considers desirable.

g. The establishment of an efficient organization which will be the nucleus for expansion in war for the control of his area of command.

7. To execute the peacetime functions detailed above, the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic will have authority:

a. To coordinate international combined training of the national forces which will be allocated to him in war so as to ensure that the forces of different nations can operate together effectively in carrying out assigned tasks.

b. Under arrangements* agreeable to the national military authorities concerned, to conduct international combined exercises of such forces as may be made available in order to improve the state of training and to determine the efficiency of forces which will be allocated to his command in war, or to direct that such exercises be carried out.

c. To call for reports based on inspections to be carried out by national authorities concerned on the state of readiness of the forces earmarked for his command on the outbreak of war, but not under his control in peacetime. Should

* NOTE: Such arrangements will cover:

a. Large scale international combined exercises which must in each case be referred to the national military authorities concerned.

b. Minor combined exercises and associated combined training which, after an initial policy agreement is reached with national military authorities concerned, may be carried out without further reference to them.

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there be any shortcomings in the state of readiness of these earmarked forces, the shortcomings should be reported by him to the national authorities with information to the Standing Group.

d. Authority to communicate with National Chiefs of Staff and with their respective Defense Ministers and Heads of Governments directly, as necessary, to facilitate the accomplishment of his mission.

e. To make recommendations direct to National Chiefs of Staff on the notice at which forces should be held in readiness to reach their war stations, based on current intelligence, and on logistic and administrative matters affecting the efficiency or readiness of these forces.

GENERAL:

8. The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic shall have operational control over those land, air and naval forces which may specifically be placed under his command, and may delegate to his subordinate commanders such authority as may be necessary for the discharge of his responsibilities.

9. In war the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic will make such operational arrangements as may be necessary for providing each other with mutual support.

10. The responsibility for logistic support to national component forces will, in general, remain with the responsible authorities of the nations concerned. The responsibility for coordination will, however, rest with the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, and with his subordinate commanders.

11. The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic will propose to the Standing Group such modifications of any of the foregoing as he may deem desirable.

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