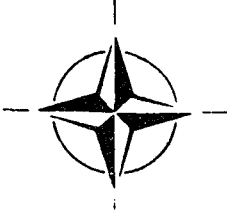


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N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
8th April, 1977

PO/77/53

To: Permanent Representatives (Council)

From: Secretary General

NATO CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING AND REVIEW CYCLE

Documents: C-M(77)16
C-M(77)17
C-M(77)18

At its meeting 10th November, 1976(1) the Council agreed inter alia that civil emergency planning at both NATO and national level should be pursued vigorously so as to improve significantly the level of civil preparedness as quickly as possible. The Council directed the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee to submit proposals to achieve such improvements, including the civil contribution to deterrence; and agreed that it would then consider bringing the matter to the notice of Ministers in the Spring of 1977.

2. Since then, the Plenary Session of the Senior Committee has met twice and has been able to achieve substantial progress; the outcome of its deliberations is reflected in the three documents now before the Council.

NATO Civil Emergency Planning and Review Cycle (C-M(77)16)

3. Under this item, the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee describes the procedures it has evolved for a new planning and review cycle. The new procedures are designed to achieve a more disciplined approach to the work. They envisage the issue of Guidance for CEP by the Council in Ministerial Session every four years or so, from which will be evolved international work programmes for the planning boards and committees. Complementary work targets will also be suggested to national authorities. Progress will be evaluated every two years with a view to a report for the Council in Permanent and Ministerial Session.

(1) C-R(76)44

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4. These procedures are to be introduced immediately on an experimental basis for the next two years. I am sure the Council will agree that this new effort to improve progressively the level of civil readiness throughout the Alliance should be given full support and I therefore invite the Council to take note of the procedures laid down in C-M(77)16.

Ministerial Guidance for Civil Emergency Planning (C-M(77)17)

5. The draft guidance for civil emergency planning represents the first step in the new planning and review cycle. The aim of the guidance is to focus attention on an important sector of Alliance planning which has always tended to be overshadowed by other, more obvious defence requirements. We are, in fact, concerned here with most of the defence responsibilities of civil departments and ministries, with essential resources and transport and, indeed, with the people of the Alliance themselves. The Council is also aware of the vital importance of civil support for the military, particularly in regard to reinforcement and resupply.

6. In considering the recommendation that the guidance should be submitted to Ministers in the Spring of this year, the Council will, I suggest, wish to pay regard on the one hand to the importance of providing at an early date Ministerial endorsement and impetus to the new CEP procedures, and on the other hand to the special character of the London meeting when a number of countries will be represented by their Heads of Government. The importance of devising an Agenda appropriate to the occasion need not be underlined.

7. After careful consideration of all the factors involved, I feel that a place should be found on the Ministerial Agenda for civil emergency planning. The alternative of waiting until December 1977 or even Spring 1978 would involve accepting a long delay in seeking the desired Ministerial backing for what I regard, and I am sure that the Council will agree, as a significant Alliance initiative. I, therefore, recommend that the Council should agree to forward the draft guidance, subject to its own consideration of the text, to Ministers when they meet next month.

The Scope and Nature of Civil Emergency Planning (C-M(77)18)

8. The last document deals with the scope and nature of civil emergency planning. The Senior Committee has suggested that I should put this to Ministers, on my own responsibility, as background information for them when they take the draft guidance document. I am quite prepared to do this if the Council so wishes.

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Staffing Aspects

9. There will be a substantial body of work involved in giving effect to the procedures in the new CEP planning and review cycle and in translating the proposed guidance into action. Paragraphs 33 and 34 of the guidance paper draw attention to the need to provide the necessary resources. This is not only a question of ensuring adequate International Staff support; national planning staffs and representatives in the NATO CEP planning bodies may also need some reinforcement. I would like to urge members of the Council to try to ensure that this attempt to put civil emergency planning within the Alliance on a more rational basis should not be frustrated for want of some additional assistance. In the context of defence resources and expenditure as a whole, the extra help which CEP needs, both at national and NATO level, is very modest.

Recommendations

10. I accordingly invite the Council to:
- (a) take note of the procedures for a NATO civil emergency planning and review cycle which are being put into immediate effect, on an experimental basis in the first instance (C-M(77)16);
 - (b) address the substance of the draft guidance and agree to its submission to Ministers in Spring 1977, for approval (C-M(77)17);
 - (c) invite the International Staff to submit the document on the scope and nature of civil emergency planning (C-M(77)18) to Ministers by way of background information in support of the draft guidance;
 - (d) note the staffing implications of the new procedures both at national and international level and undertake to draw them to the attention of member governments.

(Signed) Joseph M.A.H. LUNS

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