

DECLASSIFIED-PUBLIC DISCLOSURE IMSM-0462-02 DECLASSIFIE-MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

NATO UNCLASSIFIED
NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
APPROVED FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

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COPY NO. 020

Record - MC-40-69 (Restricted Session)

12 November 1969

SUMMARY RECORD

40TH MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN 1969

Held on Thursday, 6 November 1969, commencing at 1500 hours
in the Situation Centre (Presentation Room), NATO Headquarters
Brussels, Belgium

REGRADED NATO UNCLASSIFIED
(Approved for Public Disclosure)

PRESENT Per Authority IMSM-0462-02
By H. Housheer Date 5.3.2003

Chairman:	Admiral Sir Nigel Henderson
Belgium:	Lieutenant General E. Mommart
Canada:	Colonel E. Butcher
Denmark:	Colonel N. O. Skov-Jensen
Germany:	Lieutenant General H. Hauser
Greece:	Captain N. Andronopoulos
Italy:	Lieutenant General E. Pistotti
Luxembourg:	Major P. H. A. Dauffenbach
Netherlands:	Major General R. A. Sleeuw
Norway:	Lieutenant Colonel P. O. Lausund
Portugal:	Lieutenant General H. C. dos Santos Paiva
Turkey:	Colonel M. Toksavul
United Kingdom:	Brigadier D. R. L. Bright
United States:	General B. E. Spivy, Jr.
Director, IMS:	Lieutenant General N. G. Palaiologopoulos

ALSO PRESENT

Vice Director, IMS: Lieutenant General T. R. Milton

C. E. PAGE
Brigadier, UK Army
Secretary

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NATO's 20th Anniversary

This document consists of three pages

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RESTRICTED SESSION

Item 1 THE SPANAVFORLANT CONCEPT

The Chairman said that the Netherlands Member wished to comment on that portion of the Summary Record(1) of the 38th Meeting of the Military Committee held on 15 October which dealt with the SPANAVFORLANT Concept. The Chairman stressed that this was an entirely separate matter to the comments which SACLANT had recently made(2), and which the Staff was now studying. These would be discussed by the Military Committee at a later date.

The Netherlands Member said that the Record(1) of the 38th Meeting did not reflect all the statements that had been made during the discussion on the SPANAVFORLANT Concept. Specifically, the argument whether or not a sentence in the draft paper(3) should be deleted had not been fully recorded for tactical reasons. Also, by omitting this portion of the Record(1) a false impression could be gained that the Netherlands views on the necessary freedom of movement of forces allotted in peacetime to MNCs was not shared by other members. The Netherlands Member went on to propose that the expanded version of the Record, which had been prepared by the Secretary, IMS, should be agreed.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED the expanded version of page 9 of the Summary Record of the 38th Meeting of the Military Committee dealing with the discussion on the SPANAVFORLANT Concept (Enclosure 1)

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- (1) Record - MC-38-69, 22 Oct 69
 - (2) LANSEC 381, 3 Nov 69
 - (3) IMSM-247-69(Revised), 13 Oct 69

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Record - MC-40-69(Restricted Session)

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ENCLOSURE 1
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(PART II, Item 1)

that this sentence implied that the Military Committee protected the final authority given to SACLANT as a supreme allied commander, to position his forces to the advantage of the Alliance without coming into contact with Warsaw Pact forces. He feared that the capability of the force was being strangled and his Authorities regretted the current trend that was being taken in certain quarters to curtail its employment.

The Chairman said that although he did not disagree with the Netherlands Member, he thought it would be bad tactics to include the sentence at this time. He believed that SACLANT or the Commander of the force had authority to alter the course of STANAVFORLANT at any time in peacetime. However, any attempt to go into too great a detail in the document could well result in SACLANT being even further inhibited in his employment of STANAVFORLANT.

Although the United States Member shared the Netherlands Member's concern, he agreed with the Chairman that the sentence should be deleted. He said that SACLANT already had the capability and authority within reasonable limits and to raise this matter now could be disadvantageous.

The United Kingdom Member strongly supported the Chairman's viewpoint. He believed that the right place for the last sentence in paragraph 3.b would be in the standard procedures which would have to be drawn up in due course. He considered SACLANT had a degree of freedom at present and it must be safeguarded. If the last sentence in paragraph 3.b were retained in the document, it could result in SACLANT's freedom being even further restricted. He felt that there should be an indication in paragraph 2 that the Military Committee intended to invite SACLANT to update his concept of activation and operation of the Standing Naval Force Atlantic(1).

The Chairman summing up on this point said that a consensus of Members' views indicated that there was a majority who considered that the last sentence in the proposed paragraph 3.b(2) should be deleted.

The United States Member suggested that "responsibilities" should replace the word "prerogatives" in line 11 of paragraph 2, page 1 of the revised memorandum(2). THIS WAS AGREED BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED to accept the revised memorandum(2) incorporating the amendments agreed in discussion subject to national confirmation and the Netherlands reservation.

(SECRETARY'S NOTE: IMSM-527-69, 16 Oct 69 since issued)

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- (1) SACLANT Ser. 5401/STANAVFORLANT X MC 4/2N-1554, 6 Nov 67
 - (2) IMSWM-247-69(Revised), 13 Oct 69

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Record No. 5401-69, Corr. No.

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Enclosure 1

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