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Per Authority IMSM-0462-02
By *Visaker* Date *12/20/03*

IMSWM-214-69

28 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE
CHIEF OF THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION

SUBJECT: Standardization, Interoperability and Compatibility of
Military Equipment for NATO Forces

- References:
- a. MCM-18-69, 14 Feb 69
 - b. C-R(69)21, 16 May 69
 - c. SACLANT Ser: 5052/AC 259/1000, 11 Jun 69
 - d. CINCHAN CHEL 1104/1, 11 Jun 69
 - e. SACEUR Ltr: 6800/20, 25 Aug 69

1. Following upon the endorsement by NATO Council of the MC Memorandum to the Secretary General (reference a) on the subject of standardization and interoperability of military equipment, the Major NATO Commanders(MNCs) were invited to investigate the situation as it currently exists within their commands and to make recommendations on aspects of standardization or interoperability which should be considered by nations when planning replacement equipment.

2. From a study of the replies from the MNCs and their Subordinate Commanders it is evident that there currently exist some serious difficulties in the field of interoperability and compatibility, examples of which are given in references c, d and e.

3. The role of the NATO Military Authorities (NMAs) as outlined in C-M(66)33(Revised), which is the document setting up the current organization for co-operation in R,D and P of Military Equipment, is to "give their views as appropriate in order that the overall view should not be lost ... to provide advice when they consider it necessary ... and, in particular, periodic assessment of NATO long-term equipment requirements".

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This document consists
of 2 pages and an
Enclosure of 2 pages

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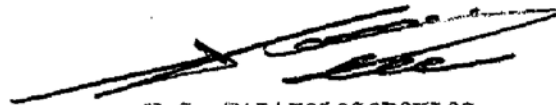
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4. As a result of a MC recommendation the Conference of National Armament Directors (CNAD) has instructed its Armaments Groups to "encourage exchanges of views on current national concepts, future plans and equipment programmes as a means of discovering at an early stage possibilities for co-operative action". This exchange is now actively progressing and there is a marked increase in consideration of concepts and future requirements by the Armaments Groups and their Subordinate Groups.

5. In order to further stress the serious effects on operational effectiveness and flexibility caused by the lack of interoperability and to assist the CNAD in its efforts to implement the recommendations made by NATO Council (reference b) with regard to standardization, interoperability and compatibility of military equipment, it is considered that the replies of the MNCs in references c, d and e should be forwarded to the CNAD for their consideration and appropriate action.

6. Should you have no objection to this step being taken it is proposed that these replies be forwarded to the Chairman of the CNAD under the attached MCM.

7. If no comments are received by 29 September 1969 your approval of this procedure will be assumed and the memorandum to the Chairman of the CNAD will be despatched.



P.G. PALAIOLOGOPOULOS
Lieutenant General, Hellenic Army
Director, International Military Staff

Action Officer: Cdr.Kinsman(2936)
Action Division: Logistics

1 ENCLOSURE:

1. MCM(Draft)

COPY TO: LIST B, SACEUREP, SACLANTREP

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ENCLOSURE 1

NCM 79-69 (Draft)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENT DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Standardization, Interoperability and Compatibility of Military Equipment for NATO Forces

References: a. MCM-18-69, 14 Feb 69
b. C-R(69)21, 16 May 69

1. In its discussions on Military Equipment Requirements during the meeting of NATO Council on 30 April 1969, as recorded in reference b, Council endorsed the views of the Military Committee on the urgent need for greater efforts by nations to achieve standardization, interoperability or compatibility of military equipment planned for use by NATO forces. In addition Council "invited nations, within the framework of the CNAD organization, to follow with further measures to promote harmonization of the R&D Programmes as well as the standardization and compatibility of equipment".

2. In order to assist nations in this task the Major NATO Commanders(MNCs) have been invited to investigate the situation as it presently exists within NATO operational commands and were asked for their advice on considerations which should be taken into account when planning future equipment.

3. It is evident that the current operational effectiveness and flexibility of NATO forces is often seriously affected by numerous apparently minor but nonetheless significant differences in military equipment.

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4. The Military Committee recognises that many of these difficulties are caused by a variety of factors which apparently cannot be avoided at this time. On the other hand, in many instances, particularly in the communication and electronics field, measures are in hand or planned to alleviate the problem. The comments by the MNCs and their Subordinate Commanders however would appear to be helpful to the CNAD and its Subordinate Groups in their efforts to overcome these difficulties, particularly in connection with the current trend towards consideration of longer-term equipment problems and the study of a sample of nations equipment replacement schedules presently being conducted.

5. The MNCs papers are forwarded for action as deemed appropriate by the CNAD.

FOR THE MILITARY COMMITTEE:

3 ENCLOSURES:

1. SACLANV Ser: 5052/AG/259/1000, 11 Jun 69
2. CINCHAN CHEL 1124/1, 11 Jun 69
3. SACEUR Ltr: 6800/20, 25 Aug 69

COPY TO: MILREPS)
FMM)
LIST B) w/o Enclosure
SACEUREP)
SACLANTREP)

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